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Viola Davis delivers

another empowering performance as 'Widows' transforms heist genre

**MOVIES** 

# STARS

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#### Mattis hails mission as 'very good training' before heading to Texas

By ROBERT BURNS Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Defense Secretary Jim Mattis defended the use of active-duty troops on the U.S.-Mexican border, saying that in some ways it provides good training for war. He argued that it's analogous to a 1916 deployment to counter the Mexican revolutionary Gen. Francisco "Pancho" Villa.

Speaking to reporters Wednesday on his way to visit U.S. troops along the border in south Texas, Mattis declined to provide an estimate of how much the mission will cost. He said cost figures he has received thus far are "not anywhere near right."

He added that he believes that "very quickly we'll know the real cost. So we'll keep you posted as the real costs come in."

In his most extensive remarks about the hastily arranged border mission, Mattis argued that it fits a historical pattern dating to early in the 20th century. He noted that President Woodrow Wilson deployed tens of thousands of National Guard and active-duty troops to the border in 1916 in response to a

JOEL MARTINEZ, THE (McALLEN, TEXAS) MONITOR/AP

Mexican military raid into the U.S.

"That's over a century ago, and the threat then was Pancho Villa's troops — revolution-ary raiding across the border into the United States," he said. He noted that more recently, National Guard troops were used in border missions ordered by President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama, although not on the cusp of a midterm election.

The Pentagon chief said that within a week to 10 days the 5,800 troops currently deployed for the border mission will have accomplished all the tasks initially requested by Customs and Border Protection, although additional tasks are now being worked out between the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security.

SEE BORDER ON PAGE 2

#### Study: Cost of post-9/11 wars hits \$5.9 trillion, 480,000 lives

By CLAUDIA GRISALES Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - The price for America's longest wars has surpassed \$5.9 trillion and at least 480,000 lost lives, according to a new study released by the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University.

The figures highlight the toll of U.S. war operations around the world since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and the study projects the numbers could rise.

"It's important for the American people to understand the true costs of war, both the moral and monetary costs," said Sen. Jack Reed, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, who helped introduce the report Wednesday at a meeting on Capitol Hill. "Our nation continues to finance wars and military operations through borrowing, rather than asking people to contribute to the national defense directly, and the result is a serious fiscal drag that we're not really accounting for or factoring into deliberations about fiscal policy or military policy.'

SEE STUDY ON PAGE 6

#### By the numbers

report:

A Brown University study has found the human and financial costs of the post-9/11 wars continue to rise. These are some statistics highlighted in the

- The U.S. government is conducting counterterrorism activities in 76 countries.
- More than 244,000 civilians have been killed as a result of the fighting.
- More than 480,000 have died due to direct war violence, and several
- times as many indirectly. The wars have created 10.1 million
- refugees and displaced persons.
- The U.S. cost for the post-9/11

wars is more than \$5.9 trillion. SOURCE: Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University

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### **Migrants fill Tijuana shelters;** more are on way to US border

By Elliot Spagat AND MARIA VERZA Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico - The first members of a caravan of Central Americans to reach the U.S. border slept in overcrowded shelters and in tents with a view of armed U.S. Border Patrol agents, with many saying they will wait for other migrants to join them before making their next moves.

Hundreds of migrants have arrived by bus in Tijuana since Tuesday, occupying the little space available in the city's shelters and spilling onto an oceanfront plaza sandwiched between an old bullring and a border fence topped with concertina wire.

Some men climbed up on the

fence to take a look at the other side Wednesday. Women and young children sleeping in tents on the plaza could see Border Patrol agents carrying machine guns in camouflage gear with San Diego's skyline in the distance.

The Juventud 2000 shelter queezed in 15 women and their children, bringing occupancy to nearly 200, which is double its regular capacity. Several dozen migrants, mostly single men, spent the night at a beach cut by the towering border wall.

The first arrivals generally received a warm welcome de spite Tijuana's shelter system to house migrants being at capacity. Migrants lined up for food while doctors checked those fighting colds and other ailments

Some migrants said they would seek asylum at a U.S. border crossing, while others said they might attempt to elude U.S. authorities by crossing illegally or perhaps settle in Tijuana. All of about a dozen people interviewed Wednesday said they would first wait for others from the caravan to arrive and gather more information.

"We have to see what we're offered, just so they don't send us back to our country," said Jairon Sorto, 22, a Honduran who arrived by bus Wednesday.

Sorto said he would consider staying in Tijuana if he could get asylum from Mexico. He said he refused to consider Mexico's offer of asylum in the southern part of the country because it was



Two men walk along the top of the border structure separating Mexico and the U.S. on Wednesday in Tijuana, Mexico

too close to Honduras and he felt unsafe from his country's gangs.

On Wednesday, there was no evidence of caravan members at Tijuana's main border crossing to San Diego, where asylum-seekers gather every morning. The San Ysidro port of entry, the busiest crossing on the U.S.-Mexico border, processes only about 100 asylum claims a day, resulting in waits of five weeks even before migrants in the caravan began to

#### **Border:** Mattis says long-term objective of deployments 'somewhat to be determined'

FROM FRONT PAGE

Mattis did not say when the mission might end. Current deployments are scheduled to last until Dec. 15, but that could change. In addition to the 5,800 active-duty

troops in the border area, about 2,100 National Guard troops have been providing border support since April.

Critics have questioned the wisdom of using the military on the border where there is no discernible security threat, although President Donald Trump has said that a caravan of Central American migrants traveling northward through Mexico amounts to an "invasion." Since the election, Trump has said little about the matter, and no border threat has yet materialized.

Asked whether he believes there is a security threat at the border that justifies the use of the active-duty military, Mattis said he defers to the judgment of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, who joined him at the border Wednesday.

Nielsen and Mattis spoke with senior U.S. commanders and addressed rankand-file troops. Mattis told the troops their mission is to "back up" Customs and Border Protection.

"Right now that's our role and that's all our role is," he said.

"The eyes of the world right now — cer-tainly all of the Americans — are on you," Mattis told the soldiers, adding that they are part of a "nontraditional" mission.

"We're here because of the number of il-

legals who say they are going to illegally try to cross into our country," he said, apparently referring to the several thousand migrants moving north through Mexico.

One soldier asked Mattis what are the short- and long-term plans for the military Mattis said the short-term objective is

to get sufficient numbers of wire and other barriers in place along the border as requested by Customs and Border Protection. The longer-term objective, he said, is 'somewhat to be determined."

"When you're in something like this, it's dynamic, it's unpredictable," Mattis said. "We'll have to see."

In an interview with reporters traveling with him to Texas. Mattis took issue with assertions by critics that the deployment undertaken shortly before the Nov. 6 midterm elections was costing the military in preparedness for combat. He said military officers have told him that the deployment has been "very good training" because it amounts to a rehearsal for the kind of logistical demands - such as loading aircraft - that must be met in wartime

"In terms of readiness, it's actually, I believe, so far improving our readiness for deployments," he said.

Mattis said the mission, which does not include performing law enforcement tasks, was reviewed by Department of Justice lawyers and deemed a legal undertaking. "It's obviously a moral and ethical mission to support our border patrolmen," he said

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PHOTOS BY SARAH KIRBY/Courtesy of the U.S. Army National Guard

Soldiers of Battle Group Poland gather for the opening ceremony of the NATO joint training exercise Anaconda 18 at Bemowo Piskie Training Area, Poland, last week.

# US tanks guard country's eastern flank in war games

By Martin Egnash Stars and Stripes

U.S. troops "battled" enemy armor and motorized infantry units in northern Poland while simultaneously engaging armed civilians probing their positions during this year's Anaconda 18 war games in northern Poland.

The biannual drills at the Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area involve almost 18,000 troops from 10 NATO allies, including the Army's 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, making it the largest exercise so far designed to defend Poland's Eastern border.

Antoni Macierewicz, Poland's former minister of defense, described Anaconda 2018 as a test of NATO's capabilities to protect the alliance's eastern flank. Due to "the complex geopolitical situation on the eastern flank," this exercise would also serve as a deterrent by demonstrating NATO's might, he said.

Poland's eastern border has been an area which NATO has paid close attention to following Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and the outbreak of fighting against Russia-backed separatists in Ukraine's eastern provinces.

The U.S. armored brigade, based in Fort Hood, Texas, has been deployed on a nine-month mission to Eastern Europe since May as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, the ongoing mission to deter further Russian aggression.

The exercise scenario called for participating troops to respond to a number of threats resulting from a mock attack on Poland's eastern border. Those included conventional armor and infantry units as well as hybrid warfare elements such as enemy forces dressed as civilians to sout their positions.

"Our scenario is focused on a multinational defense against an aggression by a fictional near-peer adversary," said Lt. Col. Timothy Ferguson, commander of the brigade's 2nd battalion. "We integrate in with our allied units, conduct planning and preparation, and then execute tactical scenarios against opposing forces to enable us to have feedback against a thinking, dynamic enemy."

The exercise began Nov. 6, with U.S. soldiers embedding into Polish-led commands, deciding on a strategy together and setting up defensive positions with American and Polish tanks.

Once the mock battle started, the NATO coalition was expected to repel the fictional invading force and mount a counter attack

These war games will most likely conclude before Thanksgiving in Drawsko Pomorskie but will continue in other bases around Poland until Dec. 6.

egnash.martin@stripes.com Twitter: @Marty\_Stripes





Above: U.S. Army Lt. Col. Donny Hebel, commander of Battle Group Poland, briefs his troops following the opening ceremony.

Left: American snipers with Battle Group Poland stand at attention during the opening ceremony of Anaconda 18.

# Paratroopers in Italy get logistical boost

By Nancy Montgomery Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — The 173rd Airborne Brigade is getting a little help from its friends for the first time in years.

U.S. Army Garrison Italy took over the logistical intricacies of getting hundreds of paratroopers from Caserma Ederle onto planes Wednesday to Aviano Air Base for exercises in southern France.

"The 173rd over the last several years was basically deploying itself," said garrison commander Col. Erik Berdy.

The logistics part is significant and was a distraction from mission imperatives, he said. "The garrison really should be doing that," Berdy said.

The move — aimed to test and improve capabilities along with the brigade for projecting power over distances — comes as the Army focuses anew on whether troops are equipped and trained to deploy quickly and effectively after more than a decade of rotational deployments to battle insurgents Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Readiness ebbs and flows. Resources ebb and flow. Priorities ebb and flow," Berdy said. "We've been getting, I'd say 'reorganized,' for power projection. We've just started to get properly resourced and are training now."

"The idea is making sure they can get where they need to be ... as frictionless as possible. It's the crawl, walk, run methodology," he said

The brigade, the U.S. Armys' quick reaction force in Europe, determined last year in a self-assessment that if called to rapidly counter Russian aggression it lacked "essential capabilities needed to accomplish its mission effectively and with decisive speed," according to Politico, which obtained a copy of the report.

"The faster we can get people in — that gives our political leaders some options," then-U.S. Army Europe commander Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges said during a 2016 NATO exercise in Spain. "That's the most important thing; speci

The exercise coincided with a report released by the independent bipartisan Commission on the National Defense Strategy which warned that "America's longstanding military advantages have diminished" and that "doubts about America's ability to deter and, if necessary, defeat opponents and honor its global commitments have proliferated."

This week's war game is the beginning of larger and more complex exercises that will culminate next spring, said Berdy, formerly with the 175rd. Berdy and brigade commander Col. James Bartholomes, longtime friends, have been working closely on the initiative.

The 173rd paratroopers were to jump onto an airfield near Caylus, France, on Wednesday and spend several days training with troops assigned to the Airborne Com-



PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripe

Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade form lines for each side of an awaiting C-130J Hercules at Aviano Air Base, Italy, on Thursday.



The personnel alert holding area at Aviano Air Base, Italy, is a busy place when the 173rd Airborne Brigade comes to gear up for a jump.

bined Joint Expeditionary Force, a Franco-British quick reaction force created in 2010.

But they ran into a hitch after arriving at Aviano. The jump was called off for the day because of high winds.

And only three C-130s were available instead of four. That

meant that when they flew out on Thursday afternoon, some 60 of the 250 paratroopers had to be left behind.

Maj. Chris Bradley, a brigade spokesman, said they'd be flown out a day or so later. "Airborne operations are inherently complex and we are prepared for these contingencies," he said.
"Combat and training are different," Bradley said. "If the

ferent," Bradley said. "If the brigade were called up in an emergency, it would likely get all the air support it needed," he

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com Twitter:@montgomerynance



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## **Top enlisted: New uniforms** will be called 'Army Greens'

Stars and Stripes

CAMP ZAMA, Japan - Soldiers won't be calling their latest retro-style dress uniforms "pinks and greens," according to Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey.

"We're calling them Army Greens," the top enlisted soldier told Stars and Stripes during a visit Wednesday to the home of U.S. Army Japan. "Pinks and greens is a World War II nickname."

The Army officially adopted the outfit, which includes pinkish-brown trousers and dark olive jackets modeled on a design worn in WWII, as its new service uniform earlier this month.

Many consider the outfit to be the sharpest in Army history, and it appears to have support among a large number of soldiers. An Army Times survey found more than 70 percent of respondents favored the idea of returning to the retro-inspired threads.

Officials said the uniform is expected to be fielded to soldiers reporting to their first units be-

We want to do recruiters first to get that uniform out in the face of the American public. 7

> **Daniel Dailey** sergeant major of the Army

ginning in summer 2020, and all soldiers will be required to have the uniform eight years after

"This takes time," he said. "The [secretary of the Army] has made a decision but there are a lot of steps that have to happen.

Recruiters will be the first to get the new duds, Dailey said. "We want to do recruiters first

to get that uniform out in the face of the American public," he said. A phase-in period will eventually see the uniform worn by all 1.1 million soldiers in the activeduty National Guard and Reserve, Dailey said.

"We also have to give soldiers

time to receive that money in their clothing allowances so they can pay for that uniform prior to it being required," he said.

The service is planning to keep the blue uniforms that the Army Greens replace, Dailey said.

"It will go back to our traditional dress uniform. The green uniform will become the Army service uniform," he said.

Dailey also had some positive things to say about the Army's new Combat Fitness Test.

The test, set to become the service's official measure of troops' physical readiness by October 2020, is designed to "closely align with what our soldiers have to do in order to accomplish their mission on the battlefield," he said.

Its six events, which require special gear, are more complex than the running, sit-ups and pushups that they replace and will take more time to train for and administer, "but that's time well spent," he said.

roheon seth@strines com Twitter: @SethRobson1



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey speaks to reporters Wednesday at Camp Zama, Japan, where he discussed the new Army uniforms.



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# 3 S. Korean companies to pay bid rigging fines

By Kim Games.

Stars and Stripes

SEOUI., South Korea — Three South Korean companies have agreed to plead guilty and pay some \$236 million in criminal and civil penalties for a "decadelong bid rigging conspiracy" involving contracts to supply fuel to U.S. military bases on the peninsula, the Justice Department said.

The companies — SK Energy Co. Ltd., GS Caltex Corp., and Hanjin Transportation Co. Ltd. — also agreed to pay a total of about \$154 million to the United States for antitrust and false claims violations in separate civil claims, according to a statement.

The Justice Department said the criminal charges were the first to be announced in the investigation, which involved allegations that the petroleum and refinery companies and their agents conspired "to suppress and eliminate competition" during the bidding process for contracts from 2005 to 2016.

"Such a conspiracy is no less illegal for being hatched in South Korea, and as this case shows, federal law enforcement authorities can bridge the distance," said Benjamin Glassman, U.S. attorney of the southern district of Ohio.

Some 28,500 U.S. servicemembers are stationed on several bases in South Korea, a staunch ally since the two countries fought together against the communist-backed North in the 1950-53 war that ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty. The Defense Logistics Agency and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service are responsible for contracts with South Korean companies to supply fuel to the military bases.

The Justice Department said the three felony charges, which were filed Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the southern district of Ohio in Columbus, involved contracts to supply fuel to all branches of service.

"We depend on companies like SK Energy, GS Caltex and Hanjin to provide valuable services to our military," Assistant Attorney General Joseph Hunt said.

'We will continue to ensure that fuel suppliers

who contract with the federal government do not engage in corrupt practices at the expense of our nation's military and the American taxpaver."

The plea deals are subject to court approval, and the companies have agreed to cooperate with the ongoing criminal investigation, according to the press release

Investigators found that the Defense Department "paid substantially more for fuel supply services in South Korea" than it would have had the three companies competed for the contracts.

The payments would exceed the amount of the individual overcharge and reflect the cost savings realized by avoid further litigation, according to the statement.

They also would resolve civil claims for making false statements to the government, which stemmed from a whistleblower lawsuit, it added.

The FBI stressed the need to hold foreign as well as domestic corporations accountable for "anticompetitive conduct and fraudulent practices toward the United States."

"The conduct by corporations in this case is particularly egregious as they targeted the U.S. military in a critically strategic region, defrauded the U.S. government and cheated the American taxpayers of millions of dollars," said Amy Hess, FBI executive assistant director.

The companies that were cited, meanwhile, issued statements Thursday in Seoul promising to follow all rules in the future, according to the Yonhap News Agency.

SK Energy also offered a "deep apology" for causing trouble, while Hanjin Transportation said it "feels responsibility" for not being able to stop the scheme, the South Korean news agency said, adding that both companies promised to strengthen compliance to avoid future breaches.

GS Caltex was quoted as saying it has signed and entered into agreements to conclude the case with the Justice Department, but it declined to comment on specifics due to the ongoing investigation.

gamel.kim@stripes.com Twitter: @kimgamel

#### Pentagon fails its first full agency-wide audit

By Caitlin M. Kenney Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department announced Thursday that it has completed an agency-wide audit that cost hundreds of millions of dollars and was required more than 20 years ago by Congress. It failed.

"But we never expected to pass it," Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan told reporters at the Pentagon.

The audit was scheduled to be released Thursday evening and the Office of Inspector General's report on its findings was expected to be completed Thursday, according to Pentagon officials.

Since the audit began in December 2017, Shanahan said the Pentagon has received preliminary findings and has been developing plans on how to take corrective actions based on them.

Some issues revealed by the

audit include inventory accuracy and complying with cybersecurity discipline, Shanahan said.

The compliance issues found in the audit are "irritating," he said. "Some of those things frus-

trated me because we have a job to do, we just need to follow our procedures."

Congress has required an audit since the early the 1990s, but the federal government's largest agency had never fully undertaken one. The 2014 National Defense Authorization Act required the department to be ready for an audit by 2017.

The Pentagon's Chief Finan-

The Fentagon's Chief Financial Officer David Norquist told the House Armed Services Committee in January that the audit would cost \$367 million and an estimated 1,200 auditors were to look into the count, location and condition of military equipment, real property and inventory. The audit examined security vulnerabilities in the Pentagon's business systems, validated the accuracy of personnel records such as promotions and assessed whether the department's books and records present a true and accurate picture of financial health. he said.

The audit was "on a \$2.7 trillion organization, so the fact that we did the audit is substantial," Shanahan said.

kenney.caitlin@stripes.com

#### 4 servicemembers charged in Green Beret's death

NORFOLK, Va. — Two U.S. Navy SEALs and two Marines have been charged in the 2017 death of an Army Green Beret while they were stationed in the African country of Mali.

The Navy said in a statement Thursday that the unidentified servicemembers face charges that include murder, hazing and obstruction of justice. Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar died June 4, 2017, in Bamako, Mali.

Authorities say in charging documents that the servicemembers broke into Melgar's bedroom while he was sleeping, bound him with duct tape and put him into a choke hold that strangled him.

The servicemembers are also accused of lying to Navy commanders and investigators about what happened.

From The Associated Press

#### **Study:** US on track to spend additional \$808 billion in funding by 2023

#### FROM FRONT PAGE

The study's death estimates include nearly 7,000 U.S. servicemembers, nearly 8,000 U.S. contractors, more than 100,0000 military and police members from other countries, more than 244,000 civilians and more than 100,000 opposition fighters.

The \$5.9 trillion U.S. cost includes Pentagon spending through fiscal year 2019, such as direct and indirect spending as well as future war-related costs for post-9/11 war veterans. If represents U.S. spending in the war zones of Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and other locations designated as "overseas contingency operations."

It also includes war-related spending by other agencies, such as the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security, costs of veterans care as well as debt used to pay for the wars.

"Veterans benefits and disability spending, and the cost of interest on borrowing to pay for the wars, will comprise an increasingly large share of the costs," said Neta Crawford, a political science professor at the institute, who authored the study.

The institute's "Costs of War" project, with 35 scholars, legal experts, human rights practitioners and physicians, began tracking the costs of the post-9/11 wars

in 2011 and continues to release updated reports. The group, which does its work through Brown University, said it uses research and public data to facilitate greater transparency of the actual toll of the wars.

Even if the wars were to end by 2023, the United States is on track to spend an additional \$808 billion, bringing the overall tally to at least \$6.7 trillion, according to the study. That doesn't include future interest payments on the spending.

War appropriations for Iraq and Afghanistan are funded by deficit spending and borrowing, and not new taxes or war bonds, the study notes. This adds to interest costs, it concludes.

Those interest payments could shift with the winds of the economy and other factors, with some pundits estimating those fees alone could total trillions.

"The U.S. continues to fund the wars by borrowing, so this is a conservative estimate of the consequences of funding the war as if on a credit card, in which we are only paying interest even as we continue to spend," Crawford said.

Tracking an overall cost for the post-9/11 wars is challenging because different departments take part in the spending.

In March 2018, the Defense Department estimated it had spent \$1.5 trillion in war-related appropriations, but that only includes a portion of all war spending, the study argued.

With no single number for the budgetary costs of the wars, it makes assessing costs, risks and benefits difficult, Crawford said. Because taxpayers tend to focus on direct military spending, it discounts the larger budgetary costs of the wars and underestimates its greater significance, she added.

"In sum, high costs in war and war-related spending pose a national security concern because they are unsustainable," Crawford said. "The public would be better served by increased transparency and by the development of a comprehensive strategy to end the wars and deal with other urgent national security priorities."

The study also tallied the number of soldiers and sailors injured in the wars. Since 2001, more than 53,700 U.S. service-members have been injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Of those injuries, 62 percent were hurt in Iraq, while 38 percent were injured in Afghanistan.

Though the fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq has been less intense than in recent years, the full of civilians killed in Afghanistan in 2018 is on track to be one of the highest death tolls of the war, Crawford said in her study.

Most of these war deaths in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria have been caused by militants, but some of them are at the hands of the United States and its coalition partners, Crawford said.

Yet, the tally remains incomplete, and there are efforts by the United Nations to track and identify perpetrators of those deaths and injuries, she noted. Other organizations, such as the Congressional Research Service and the news media, are also attempting to track these figures.

"Indeed, we may never know the total direct death toll in these wars," she said.

In addition, this tally does not include "indirect deaths" — people harmed as a result of long-term damage left in the war zones, such as lost access to food and water.

"This update just scratches the surface of the human consequences of 17 years of war," Crawford said. "There are a number of areas — the number of civilians killed and injured, and the number of U.S. military and veteran suicides, for instance — where greater transparency would lead to greater accountability and could lead to better policy."

grisales.claudia@stripes.com Twitter: @cgrisales

# Marijuana-PTSD study reaches its target enrollment

76 veterans are registered to help with research on potential for pot treatment

By NIKKI WENTLING Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Researchers who are trying to determine whether marijuana works to treat post-traumatic stress disorder enrolled their final veteran needed for the study on Veterans Day.

The Scottsdale Research Institute in Phoenix, which is performing the study, achieved its total enrollment nearly two years after it began recruiting veterans into the study and eight years since the Food and Drug Administration approved it.

"A nearly 10-year saga for this PTSD-cannabis study," lead researcher Sue Sisley wrote in an email. "Almost at finish line."

The study is the first government-approved research into marijuana's effects on PTSD. When it's done, Sisley aims to have a definitive answer of whether marijuana benefits people with PTSD and if there are negative consequences.

All of the study's participants are veterans.

Once researchers began recruiting veterans for the study in February 2017, they immediately ran into problems. By September 2017, they had screened thousands of veterans but enrolled only 26 who met the eligibility criteria.

For a while, there were concerns the study would have to be broadened to include nonveterans.

At issue was the researchers' lack of access to the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Phoenix, just 20 miles from where the study is being conducted. Sisley saw potential there to find a large group of veterans who might be resistant to other PTSD treatments and looking for an alternative.

The VA said federal law restricted the agency from researching medical marijuana or referring veterans to projects involving the drug.

"Despite the refusal of the IVA] and Arizona's public universities and hospitals to assist with recruitment for the study, the trial is on track to finish on time," read a news release from the nonprofit Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies, which is sponsoring the research.

To enroll, veterans had to be diagnosed with chronic PTSD brought on by military service. Researchers wanted a range of ages, as well as men and women. The study needed 76 veterans to be viable.



It's a random, controlled trial. The veterans participating are given 1.8 grams of marijuana each day of differing potencies. They choose how much to smoke, and they're asked to keep a daily journal.

Participants visit Scottsdale Research Institute 17 times during 12 weeks and then are scheduled for six-month follow-ups

uled for six-month follow-ups.

Researchers intend to publish

their findings sometime in 2019.
"Hopefully, we'll be able to finally answer the question, 'Does
cannabis help with PTSD?' That's
our goal,' Sisley said at the start
of the study in 2017. "That's why
we've been fighting so hard to get
this underway."

More veterans have spoken out in favor of medical marijuana in recent years.

The American Legion passed a resolution supporting the study, and the chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., also voiced his support for more research into the drug.

There are efforts in Congress to allow VA doctors to recommend marijuana to veterans in states where the drug is legal. Separately, a bipartisan group of lawmakers, including Roe, urged VA Secretary Robert Wilkie to have the agency conduct its own research into marijuana as a treatment for PTSD, chronic pain and other ailments that disproportionately affect veterans.

When asked about medical marijuana last week, Wilkie was adamant that the VA wouldn't explore it as a potential treatment until the federal government makes marijuana legal.

"Marijuana is against the federal law," he said Nov. 9 during an event at the National Press Club in Washington. "If the laws change and there's medical evidence there, of course, we look at that. But the law is pretty clear at the federal level."

wentling.nikki@stripes.com Twitter: @nikkiwentling

#### Army aids 'malicious tweets' probe

By CHAD GARLAND Stars and Stripes

The Army's Cadet Command is assisting in an investigation into allegations that a Reserve Officer Training Corps cadet at a North Carolina liberal arts college was operating a pro-Nazi and white supremacist Twitter account.

Maj. Gen. John R. Evans, head of the command, said Wednesday on Twitter that police in Davidson, N.C., were looking into the matter after social media posts last week linked Martha Gerdes, a cadet in Davidson College's ROTC program, to "malicious tweets." Evans reversed his claims that Gerdes had been cleared after online sleuths had accused her and her alleged boyfriend of operating racist Twitter accounts last week, saying he had been in-

formed police were continuing an investigation.
"I tweeted this message last week based on an investigation I thought was thorough and complete," he said.

The college is still investigating the matter, school spokesman Jay Pfeifer said via email. The implicated students were not on campus, he said, but privacy laws prevented him from disclosing more.

The controversy comes on the heels of an attack last month at a Pittsburgh synagogue that left 11 dead and seven wounded. It also follows a spate of headline-grabbing clashes between whin nationalist demonstrators and far-left counterprotesters across the country in recent years, including cases involving military servicemembers.

At least two Marines were kicked out of the service last year after their ties to white supremacist groups were exposed. Earlier this year, a Marine with alleged



Screenshot from Twitte

A tweet by "erika" shared by U.S. Army WTF Moments shows cross burning in the 1920s. Social media posts last week linked Martha Gerdes, a cadet in Davidson College's ROTC program, to the erika Twitter account.

connections to neo-Nazi organizations was booted from the Corps after reports that he bragged about assaulting a trans woman at last year's "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville. Va.

Online activists linked Gerdes to a racist and anti-Semitic Twitter account going by the username "erika" by matching photos and biographical details that the various accounts had all shared at around the same time.

Gerdes could not immediately be reached for comment.

Davidson College said on Twitter last week that officials were eware of the information and "the college is on it." Later, officials said the accused students had left campus and had been kicked off the sailing team, the Charlotte Observer reported. Some students told the college newspaper that one of the two had been removed from a student group last year over "racist ideologies that were unwelcome." Students held a demonstration last Friday to protest bigotry on campus.

The allegations against Gerdes, originating from an apparent leftist group that opposes white supremacy and capitalism, caught the attention of U.S. Army WTF Moments, which notified Army ROTC and the Army's Training and Doctrine Command.

In response, Army ROTC said officials were looking into it and would "take action as appropriate."

garland.chad@stripes.com Twitter: @chadgarland

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# **Woman makes** strides toward **Special Forces**

By DREW BROOKS

The Favetteville (N.C.) Observer

A woman has passed Special Forces Assessment and Selection for the first time in the history of the Green Berets.

The unnamed soldier com-pleted the selection process this week, officials said.

Like other Special Forces soldiers, she is not being identified by U.S. Army Special Operations Command or the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, which oversees training for Special Forces, Civil Affairs Psychological Operations soldiers.

"It is our policy to not release the names of our servicemembers because Special Forces soldiers perform discreet missions upon graduation," said Lt. Col. Loren Bymer, a USASOC spokesman.

Special Forces Assessment and Selection is one of the first steps for a soldier seeking to earn the coveted Green Beret and is considered one of the most grueling selection processes in the U.S. military. It is followed by the Special Forces Qualification Course, which is also conducted at Fort Bragg.

Bymer said the selection process involves a continual assessment of each candidate by professional cadre throughout a 24-day rigorous test of mental and physical stamina.

In all, training to become a Special Forces soldier can take up to two years, depending on military occupational specialty and foreign language requirements, officials said.

"We're proud of all the candidates who attended and were selected to continue into the qualification course in hopes of earn-ing their Green Beret." Bymer

The soldier is expected to attend the Special Forces Qualification Course in the coming

If she completes training to become a Special Forces soldier, she would open one of the last remaining all-male fraternities of the Army - the Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha. or A-team.

Each A-team comprises 12 soldiers with varied specialties.

The soldier, if she graduates, would be assigned to one of seven Special Forces groups, each orientated to a particular part of the globe and trained to work alongside and through local forces in their areas of expertise.

On Wednesday, the Service Women's Action Network, which has advocated for opening military jobs to women, applauded the news.

"It's very exciting," said Ellen Haring, a retired Army colonel and the organization's CEO.

Haring said the soldier still has work to do before she earns a Green Beret, but said the accomplishment would encourage others to follow in her footsteps.

Previously, several women had attempted Special Forces Assess-ment and Selection but were unable to advance.

Haring said Special Forces were the last remaining Army jobs not integrated, but said those days are numbered.

"This is the first step," she said. "We've long advocated that everything should be open to women and that women can compete if given the chance.

Special Forces were created at Fort Bragg in 1952 and have played key roles in national military strategy ever since, but the difficult assessment and selection process was not opened to women until 2016, following an Armywide directive to integrate previously male-only specialties.

Despite that, women have served in Special Forces units for years, typically in support roles.



Capt. John Graziano, an instructor pilot with the 87th Flying Training Squadron, was killed in a T-38C Talon crash on Tuesday at Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas.

#### Air Force identifies instructor pilot killed in Laughlin crash

By Corey Dickstein Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - A 28-year-old Air Force instructor pilot was killed when his T-38C Talon jet trainer crashed Tuesday evening at Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas, service officials said late

Capt. John Graziano died in the crash about 7:40 p.m. local time on the south Texas installation just outside Del Rio, the Air Force said in a statement. A second pilot in the aircraft, Capt. Mark Palyok, was released from a local hospital late Wednesday after he was treated for injuries, the service said.

An investigation into the crash was ongoing Thursday, said officials, who declined to say whether the probe had produced any preliminary findings.

Both pilots belonged to Laughlin's 87th Flying Training Squadron.

"Everybody's hurting. Everybody, including me," Air Force Col. Lee Gentile, the commander of the 47th Flying Training Wing, said in a video posted to Laughlin's official Facebook page. "That's our second loss in the last year."

On Nov. 20, 2017, Air Force Capt. Paul J. Barbour was killed and Capt. Joshua Hammervold was injured when their T-38 jet crashed after it experienced total hydraulic failure, according to an investigation into the crash

The T-38 is a decades-old supersonic jet used to train pilots to fly fighter and bomber aircraft. Three other Air Force T-38s have crashed in 2018. None of those incidents occurred at Laughlin, and the pilots survived the crashes.

Barbour and Hammervold were also members of the 47th Flying Training Wing, part of Air Force Air Education and Training Command responsible for training student pilots from the regular Air Force. the reserves, the National Guard and allied nations for combat operations.

The 47th Wing in recent weeks saw an overhaul of leadership, as three top commanders were removed from duty following an investigation that found widespread misconduct in the squadron that top officers failed to address

Gentile took command of the wing on Oct. 31 following the dismissals.

Graziano was from Elkridge, Md., according to the Air Force. He is survived by his mother, father, sisters and brother.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

#### Afghan officials: Taliban killed 30 policemen in west province

By AMIR SHAH Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A blistering overnight attack by the Taliban on an Afghan police outpost in western Farah province killed 30 policemen, Afghan officials said Thursday.

It was the latest in a series of brutal and near-daily Taliban assaults on the military and police forces, government and other installations throughout the country. The resurgent Taliban, who in recent years have taken over nearly half of Afghanistan, did not comment on the attack in Farah.

The attacks have been so relentless that authorities no longer regularly provide casualty figures, but unofficial estimates say about 45 Afghan policemen or soldiers are killed or wounded on a daily basis

According to provincial council member Dadullah Qani, the overnight onslaught on the outpost in Farah's district of Khaki Safed began late Wednesday and continued for more than four hours.

In Kabul, lawmaker Samiullah Samim told The Associated Press that the Taliban killed all 30 policemen - members of both the national and local police force - who were deployed at the outpost, including the district police commander. Abdul Jabhar.

Retaliatory airstrikes killed 17 Taliban fighters but the insurgents still managed to get away with a large amount of weapons and ammunition, he said.

Meanwhile, fighting with the Taliban in two districts of central Ghazni province has displaced thousands of people in the past two weeks, most of them minority ethnic Hazaras, who are Shiites, said Mohammad Arif Rahmani, a lawmaker from

Also, about 100 Afghan policemen, local pro-government militiamen and soldiers have been killed in the bitter clashes there, Rahmani told the AP.

Currently, Afghan security forces are battling insurgents in 22 of the country's 34 provinces, he added.

Afghanistan's protracted war has also become increasingly deadly for civilians. A United Nations report issued earlier this year said more civilians died in the first six months of 2018 than in any year since 2009, when the U.N. mission first began monitoring civilian casualties

#### NATION

# Icy roads deadly as storm barrels east

By Adrian Sainz and Jeff Amy Associated Press

BYHALIA, Miss.—A pre-winter storm slammed parts of the South and lower Midwest, causing five deaths on slippery roads and stranding travelers for more than eight hours on an icy Arkansas interstate.

The wintry weather was barreling eastward Thursday, with snow and ice expected from Ohio and the Appalachian Mountains through Washington, New York and New England.

Snow fell as far southeast as central Alabama, which got adusting. While wintry precipitation is unusual in the Deep South so early in the season, forecasters said the overnight trace missed setting a record for earliest snow by about two weeks.

In Mississippi, a tour bus bound for a casino overturned, leaving two people dead and 44 others injured. And in the Little Rock, Ark., area, three people were killed in separate crashes on icy roads Wednesday night, while Interstate 40 was shut down overnight in the eastern part of the state because of several crashes near the White River bridge. The interstate reopened shortly before daybreak Thursday, but officials said traffic was slow-going because some drivers had fallen asleep.

Witnesses told Mississippi investigators the tour bus driver lost control after crossing an icy overpass and the bus rolled over on its driver's side, coming to rest in the median of Interstate 269 in Byhalia around 12:35 p.m., said Mississippi Highway Patrol spokesman (apt. Johnny Poulos.

"All of a sudden the bus started swerving then it spun around two times, hit the rail and then flipped over," bus passenger Veronica Love told news outlets as



JOE RONDONE, THE (MEMPHIS, TENN.) COMMERCIAL APPEAL/AF

Law enforcement officers inspect the site where a tour bus carrying passengers overturned just after midday Wednesday in Desoto County, Miss. The crash came as a winter storm has been raking parts of the South.

she left a hospital after the wreck. "The second spin, it started picking up speed. It was, I mean, what could you do?"

The crash happened about 35 miles southeast of downtown Memphis. Tenn.

Killed were Betty Russell, 70, and Cynthia Hardin, 61, both of Huntsville, Ala., said DeSoto

County Coroner Joshua Pounders. The injured were taken to Memphis-area hospitals, with at least three listed in serious condition Wednesday evening.

Officials said the group was traveling from Huntsville, Ala., to gamble at a casino in Mississippi's Tunica County, about 40 miles to the west

Around the upper South, meanwhile, the storm spread scattered sleet and light snow Wednesday. In Virginia, NASA said, the planned launch early Thursday of an unmanned cargo rocket to the International Space Station had to be rescheduled by one day because of the weather: The unmanned Cygnus cargo craft is now scheduled to lift off early Friday from Wallops Island on the Eastern Shore carrying supplies and research materials for the astronauts at the space station.

Elsewhere, an ice storm hitting parts of Indiana shut down schools and left hazardous conditions on roadways Thursday

#### Report: Couple, homeless man set up fraudulent GoFundMe campaign

By CLIFF PINCKARD Advance Ohio Media

MOUNT HOLLY, N.J. — A couple conspired with a homeless man on a story about him offering the last of his money when the woman's car ran out of gas and then set up a fraudulent GoFundMe account to scam sympathizers, according to a report Wednesday.

According to NBC Philadelphia, a source familiar with the case says Mark D'Amico; his girlfriend, Kate McClure; and Johnny Bobbitt will face charges that include conspiracy and theft by deception.

D'Amico and McClure reportedly have surrendered to Burlington County prosecutors. It's unknown if Bobbitt plans to surrender.

Prosecutors were expected to officially announce charges Thursday, the Camden Courier Post reported.

The story of D'Amico, McClure and Bobbitt went viral in November 2017, according to nj.com. McClure said she ran out of gas in Philadelphia when she encountered Bobbitt, who gave her his final \$20 so she

could fill the tank of her vehicle.

The couple then started a GoFundMe campaign to raise money for Bobbitt. It drew more than \$400,000 in donations.

In September, Bobbitt sued the couple, accusing them of withholding money from him and instead spending it on themselves. Bobbitt's lawyer says his client received about \$75,000.

D'Amico and McClure said they were rationing the money to keep Bobbitt from using it on "something stupid."

Bobbitt lived for a short time on the couples property in a camper purchased for him but later was told to leave and became homeless again. He admitted he still struggled with drug addiction in April but now says he's clean, the Courier Post reported.

Prosecutors have been focusing on D'Amico and McClure, and their home in Florence, N.J., was raided in September, nj.com reported. A new BMW, jewelry and cash were seized in the raid, according to NBC Philadelphia.

The money raised reportedly is all gone although it's unclear where it went.



DAVID SWANSON, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/TN

From left, Johnny Bobbitt, Kate McClure and Mark D'Amico, shown on Dec. 5, 2017, are accused of conspiring to set up a fraudulent fundraiser.

#### NATION

# McCarthy set to lead House GOP

By LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican Rep. Kevin McCarthy easily won an internal party election to take over the shrunken House GOP caucus, handing the seven-term Californian a familiar role of building the party back to a majority as well as protecting President Donald Trump's agenda.

With Speaker Paul Ryan retiring and the House majority gone, the race for minority leader was McCarthy's to lose Wednesday. But rarely has a leader of a party that suffered a major defeat — Democrats wiped out Republicans in GOP-held suburban dis-

tricts from New York to McCarthy's own backyard — been so handily rewarded.

After defeating Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, the conservative House Free-



dom Caucus co-founder, McCarthy will be tested by Republicans on and off Capitol Hill who remain angry and divided after their midterm losses and split over how best to move forward.

On Thursday, McCarthy sought to downplay Republican losses in the House. McCarthy said on CNN that the party that wins control of the White House usually loses some seats in the next election cycle. "We knew history was against it," he said. McCarthy added that the Re-

McCarriny added that the Republican party had many retirements and that two GOP women in the House have moved on to become a governor and a senator. McCarthy said Republicans

will try to recruit more women and focus on diversity going forward. "The one thing about going into minority, you can always improve," McCarthy said.

McCarthy, who has been majority leader under Ryan, acknowledged Republicans "took a beating" in the suburbs in last week's national elections, especially as the ranks of GOP female lawmakers plummeted to just 17the GOP side of the aisle will be made up of 90 percent white men in the new Congress — an imbalance he blamed on billionaire former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's election spending to help Democrats.

Bloomberg spent more than \$110 million in the midterms. Two Republican women were defeated by candidates he supported, and both were replaced by Democratic women, said spokeswoman Rachel Nagler.

McCarthy has been here before, having helped pick up the party after Republicans last lost control of the House in 2006, leading them to the 2010 tea party wave that pushed them back into the majority. He won by 159-43 among House Republicans.

Trump, who is close to McCarthy but also friendly with Jordan, largely stayed on the sidelines in the intraparty House contest. The outcome gives the president two allies positioned to help him.

While McCarthy provides an affable face for the GOP, Jordan, the former Ohio wrestling champ and a Fox News regular, will be fighting Democrats' investigations into Trump's businesses and administration.

GOP Whip Steve Scalise, the Louisiana Republican who was badly wounded in last year's congressional baseball practice shooting and unanimously won his position Wednesday, said McCarthy "knows what he needs to do."

Rounding out the GOP leadership team will be Rep. Liz Cheney, of Wyoming, a daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, who was on hand to watch his daughter take over the No. 3 spot he held decades ago. "He told me not to screw it un." she said.

House Democrats put off until after Thanksgiving their more prominent contest, Rep. Nancy Pelosi's bid to regain the speaker's gavel she held when the Democrats last had the majority.



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Susan Bucher, supervisor of elections, walks near ballot boxes at the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections office during a recount Wednesday in West Palm Beach, Fla.

# Federal judge says Florida is 'laughingstock of the world'

By GARY FINEOUT AND BRENDAN FARRINGTON Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A federal judge slammed Florida on Thursday for repeatedly failing to anticipate election problems and said the state law on recounts appears to violate the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that decided the presidency in 2000.

"We have been the laughingstock of the world, election after election, and we chose not to fix this," U.S. District Judge Mark Walker said in court.

Walker vented his anger at state lawmakers but also Palm Beach County officials, saying they should have made sure they had enough equipment in place to handle this kind of a recount. Walker also said he's not happy about the idea of extending recount deadlines without limit.

The overarching problem was created by the Florida Legislature, which Walker said passed a recount law that appears to run afoul of the 2000 Bush v. Gore decision by locking in procedures that don't allow for potential problems.

A total of six election-related lawsuits are pending in Tallahas-see. Earlier Thursday, Walker ordered that voters be given until 5 p.m. Saturday to show a valid identification and fix their ballots if they haven't been counted due to mismatched signatures.

Florida's 67 counties have faced a 3 p.m. Thursday deadline to finish recounts that could determine the next senator and governor in one of America's top political battlegrounds. Republicans said they would immediately appeal.

State officials testified that nearly 4,000 mailed-in ballots were set aside because local officials decided the signature on the envelope didn't match the signature on file. If these voters can prove their identity, their votes will now be counted and included in final official returns due from each county by noon Sunday.

Meanwhile, the ongoing re-

count threatens to stretch into the weekend. The election supervisor in Palm Beach County, a Democratic stronghold, warned they may not meet Thursday's initial deadline. U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson and Democrats want that looming deadline set aside, and other lawsuits could lead to more delaws.

More than a week after Election Day, an immediate resolution seems remote.

Once the machine recount is complete, state law requires a hand review of races with margins of less than 0.25 percentage points. That almost certainly means another recount in the Senate race, with unofficial results showing Republican Gov. Rick Scott ahead of Nelson by 0.14 percentage points.

Also, the election won't be certime to the country of the country of the machine recount may essentially bring a conclusion to the governor's race, where Republican Ron DeSantis leads Democrat Andrew Gillum by 0.41 percentage points in unofficial results

#### Dems doubt Kemp's claim of 'insurmountable lead' in Ga.

Associated Press

ATLANTA — As Democrats ratcheted up their attacks on Georgia Republican Brian Kemp, he claimed Wednesday that results certified by county election officials confirm he has an "insurmountable lead" in the governor's race.

At a news conference, Georgia Democrats cast doubt on the legitimacy of any election count that ends with the former secretary of state being certified as the winner of a fiercely fought election against Stacey Abrams, who's seeking to become the first black woman elected governor in the U.S.

"We believe that Brian Kemp mismanaged this election to sway it in his favor," said Abrams' campaign manager, Lauren Groh-Wargo, surrounded by Democratic lawmakers at the Georgia Capitol.

Democrats beyond Georgía have started to echo the notion that a Kemp victory would be illegitimate. Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown said Wednesday that if Abrams loses it's because Republicans stole the election.

"If Stacey Abrams doesn't win in Georgia, they stole it. I say that publicly, it's clear," said Brown, speaking at a briefing for the National Action Network. Kemp's campaign, which has repeatedly called on Abrams to concede, repeated that call Wednesday, saying Abrams and her supporters have used "fake vote totals," "desperate press conferences" and "dangerous lawsuits" to try to steal the election.

"After all of the theatrics, the math remains the same," Kemp campaign spokesman Cody Hall said in an email. "Abrams lost and Brian Kemp won. This election is

Since he declared himself governor last week and resigned as secretary of state, Kemp's lead has narrowed as counties have tabulated more ballots. The numbers could change again as federal courts issue new guidance on counting certain provisional and absentee ballots.

Groh-Wargo said Tuesday that the Abrams campaign believes she needs a net gain of 17,759 votes to pull Kemp below a majority threshold and force a Dec. 4 run-off. Kemp's campaign said even if every vote that Abrams campaign is arguing for is granted by the courts and counted for her, she cannot overcome his lead or force a runoff.

The Associated Press has not called the

# Trump renews his attacks Trump administration on Mueller's Russia probe

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump on Thursday lashed out anew at the investigation of special counsel Robert Mueller, calling his team of lawyers "a disgrace to our Nation" and accusing them, without evidence, of threatening witnesses to get answers they want.

Trump's rant, in a pair of morning tweets, came a week after the installation of Matthew G. Whitaker as acting attorney general, a move many Democrats have said appears designed to curtail Mueller's investigation into possible coordination between Russia and Trump's campaign during the 2016 election.

Trump angrily dismissed a reporter's question about that notion last week and said he had not spoken to Whitaker about the to replace ousted Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Many of Trump's complaints in Thursday's tweets were familiar, but they took on heightened significance with Whitaker now overseeing Mueller's probe, which is also examining whether Trump has obstructed justice.

"The inner workings of the Mueller investigation are a total mess," Trump wrote. "They have found no collusion and have gone absolutely nuts. They are screaming and shouting at people, horribly threatening them to come up with the answers they want. They are a disgrace to our Nation and don't care how many lives the [sic] ruin.'

He continued: "These are Angry People, including the highly conflicted Bob Mueller, who worked for Obama for 8 years. They won't even look at all of the

side. A TOTAL WITCH HUNT LIKE NO OTHER IN AMERI-CAN HISTORY!"

In his tweets, Trump misstated Mueller's background. A registered Republican, Mueller was nominated to be FBI director in 2001 by then-President George W. Bush. In 2011, then-President Barack Obama gave a two-year extension to Mueller's original 10-year term.

Mueller was tapped last year to be special counsel by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. Rosenstein started overseeing the Russia investigation after Sessions recused himself citing his role in Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

White House officials have

sought in recent days to highlight their continuing cooperation with Mueller's team despite Trump's opinion of the probe.



Michael Avenatti speaks to the media outside the Los Angeles Police Department Pacific Division after being released from police custody following his arrest on a felony domestic violence charge on Wednesday in Los Angeles

#### After arrest, Avenatti denies domestic violence

By MICHAEL BALSAMO AND ANDREW DALTON Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - Michael Avenatti, the lawyer for Stormy Daniels, has denied allegations of domestic violence after his arrest near his ritzy Los Angeles skyscraper apartment.

"I have never struck a woman. I never will strike a woman," Avenatti told reporters Wednesday after being booked and posting \$50,000 bail.

Avenatti said he has been an advocate for women's rights his entire career and is confident that he will be exonerated. Police didn't immediately disclose details about the arrest incident but Officer Tony Im, an LAPD spokesman, said the vic-

tim has visible injuries.

Earlier, Avenatti released a statement through his law firm slamming the allegation as "completely bogus" and intended to harm his reputation.

Avenatti became famous representing Daniels, the porn actress who alleges she had an affair with Donald Trump in 2006 and has sued to invalidate the confidentiality agreement she signed days before the 2016 presidential election that prevents her discussing it. She also sued Trump and his personal attorney, Michael Cohen, alleging defamation.

Avenatti, who has said he's mulling a 2020 presidential run, pursued the president and those close to him relentlessly for months, taunting Trump in interviews and baiting him and his lawvers in tweets.

The Vermont Democratic Party canceled events planned for Friday and Saturday, where Avenatti was scheduled to speak, and is refunding ticket sales.

### Rights group presses on local police scrutiny

By Wesley Lowery The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on Thursday urged the Trump administration to resume federal oversight of troubled police departments and reinstate the Justice Department's community policing office - steps that would reverse recently departed Attorney General Jeff Sessions's effort to limit federal oversight of local police departments.

The commission's 200-page report, endorsed by a majority of the eight members, concludes that black Americans, among others, have valid concerns about police violence and a lack of officer accountability.

In response, the report concludes, federal officials should resume the practice - abandoned since the election of President Donald Trump — of investigating local police departments accused of systemic civil rights violations and resurrect the DOJ's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

"The Department of Justice is turning its back on the important work that has been done in the nast " Commission Chair Catherine Lhamon said in an interview with The Post. "It is critically important for the Department of Justice to return to vigorous enforcement of Constitutional policing."

Under President Obama, the Justice Department aggressively probed allegations of civil rights violations by local police departments, launching more than two dozen investigations and entering at least 14 "consent decrees" in which local officials agreed to enact reforms and submit to a federal monitor. The Trump era has seen the federal government walk away from efforts to oversee local departments.

During his nearly two years leading the Justice Department, Sessions did not launch any new probes into local police departments and publicly disparaged the rigor and accuracy of previous federal investigations that had documented civil rights violations by police. In some cases, local police departments that had requested federal review and spent years engaged in reforms were forced to petition the Justice Department for access to the results of those voluntary probes.

In his final act in office before resigning last week. Sessions issued a memo making it more difficult for federal officials to broker consent decrees.

"The evidence is very strong that having federal oversight in terms of a court decree has dramatically improved the quality of life in communities with those agreements," said Lhamon, a former assistant secretary for civil rights in the U.S. Department of Education. "The turn away that

we're seeing in this administration is a turn against civil rights.

The commission's members voted unanimously to launch a probe into police use of force in December 2014, at a time when the police killings of Eric Gardner in New York City, Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and Tamir Rice in Cleveland had prompted massive protest across the country. The panel held a public hearing in April 2015 that included testimony from activists, police officials and criminologists.

The new report includes summaries and analysis of major investigations into police use of force and accountability conducted by media outlets including The Post. The Guardian, Buzzfeed News and others, as well as dozens of reports by criminologists and other experts that have been published in recent years.

The report recommends Congress pass legislation requiring local police departments to provide reliable data on police use of force and that federal funding be denied to those that refuse. To date, the commission notes. the most comprehensive data on how often police officers use fatal force is that published in databases maintained by The Washington Post and other media outlets.

"We need to have better data, Lhamon said. "We need to be able to know what it is that communities are experiencing.'

In 2015, The Post and The Guardian launched separate databases to track fatal police shootings and other deaths in custody in order to make up for the lack of reliable data collected by the DOJ. Following those efforts, then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch announced in 2016 that the Justice Department would begin collecting and releasing more reliable data, but those efforts have not been fruitful

The Post's database has documented nearly 3,800 fatal police shootings since January 2015
— including at least 841 people shot and killed by police so far in

To fill the gap in federal data collection, the Commission recommended that Congress make reporting use-of-force data to the DOJ a condition for local police departments' receipt of federal funding. That data should then be maintained in a public national database maintained by DOJ, the report recommends, and any department that does not provide data should be publicly named by federal officials.

The report makes a series of additional recommendations, including Congressional funding for new research into police oversight, more police training for deescalation, and local reforms that would change the grand jury process for police killings - having them overseen by local judges, not prosecutors, and creating an open record of their proceedings.

#### NATION

## **AAA: Driver assists not exactly autonomous**

By Tom Krisher Associated Press

DETROIT - Testing by AAA shows that electronic driver assist systems on the road today may not keep vehicles in their lanes or spot stationary objects in time to avoid a crash.

The tests brought a warning from the auto club that drivers shouldn't think that the systems make their vehicles self-driving, and that they should always be ready to take control.

AAA also said that use of the word "pilot" by automakers in naming their systems can make some owners believe the vehicles can drive themselves.

"These systems are made as an aid to driving; they are not autonomous, despite

all of the hype around vehicle autonomy," said Greg Brannon, AAA's director of automotive engineering. "Clearly having 'pilot' in the name may imply a level of unaided driving, which is not correct for the current state of the development of these systems."

The test results released Thursday come after several highly publicized crashes involving Tesla vehicles that were operating on the company's system named "Autopilot." The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating some of the crashes, including a March fatality that involved a Model X that struck a freeway barrier near Mountain View, Calif.

The AAA findings are the second tests showing that the systems can't handle every

situation in real-world driving, including some that are relatively common. In August, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety released tests that showed problems similar to those in the AAA study.

The auto club tested the systems on four vehicles that had adaptive cruise control, lane-keeping assist and automatic emergency braking. Vehicles tested included the 2018 Mercedes-Benz S Class, the 2018 Nissan Rogue, a 2017 Tesla Model S and a 2019 Volvo XC40. In addition to Tesla's Autopilot, Volvo calls its system "Pilot Assist," while Nissan's is named "ProPilot Assist.

Automakers generally say they tell drivers that their cars aren't fully self-driving and that they should always be alert and

ready to intervene.

AAA says all four vehicles drifted out of lanes and hugged lane markers, struggling with moderate traffic, curved roads and streets with busy intersections. Three of the four would have failed to avoid a crash when the vehicle ahead of them changed lanes and a simulated stopped vehicle was

"As a result we had to take evasive action," said Brannon, who wouldn't identify the vehicles that failed to stop in time.

The vehicles' owner's manuals say that spotting a stationary vehicle after a lead vehicle changes lanes is a design limitation for the systems, Brannon said. But he said researchers expected the vehicles to see stopped vehicles and react in time.

#### Amish farmer seeks pardon from Trump

LEXINGTON, Ky. Amish farmer in Kentucky is ask-ing President Donald Trump for a pardon after he was sentenced to six years in federal prison for mislabeling homemade herbal products.

The Lexington Herald-Leader reported Wednesday that Samuel Girod, 58, filed his petition with the U.S. Department of Justice pardon attorney.

Girod is currently serving the time at a minimum security facil-

ity in Ashland. He's a member of the Old Order Amish faith and manufactured salves and herbal products. One claimed to cure skin cancer; another was corrosive to skin.

The petition says Girod is innocent and didn't fully understand the consequences when he represented himself in the case.

His friends, the county sheriff and an online petition fought against his conviction and sentencing, saying his prosecution



A Mexican gray wolf runs inside a pen at the Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. Federal authorities intend to remove endangered species protections for all gray wolves in the Lower 48 states.

#### Lower 48's gray wolf population could lose its federal protection

By Kellen Browning McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - Republicans have only a few weeks left until they cede control of the House to Democrats, but the first big post-election GOP vote won't address taxes or border wall funding.

It involves wolves.

Republicans are pushing legislation that would remove gray wolves in the 48 contiguous U.S. states from the list of threatened and endangered animals protected under the Environmental Species Act, which safeguards those animals' habitats. The House of Representatives is expected to vote on the bill Friday.

In Washington state, the federal act protects gray wolves in the eastern third of the state. Throughout the state, the wolves are protected under state law.

Despite legal challenges, the state's Department of Fish & Wildlife has approved the killing of wolves who attack livestock, reigniting controversy between ranchers and conservationists

Congress returned this week for a post-election session. Republicans are eager to get the bill passed in this lame duck session, figuring that once Democrats take control in January, conservationists will make it tough to get it enacted.

"This is bipartisan. But still, I think it fits easier on our agenda," said Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas,

who chairs the House Rules Committee that approved rules of debate for the wolf bill. "I think it makes it harder when there's a new Congress." Sessions said both Republicans and Democrats

from western states, where many gray wolves in the U.S. live, made a push to get the bill through

"I hope that there's agreement that it needs to be handled," he said. "But it's an emotional issue to people that don't live in the west.'

Not all western lawmakers like the bill.

'Last year, the California (Department of) Fish and Wildlife was so excited to finally announce that we had a family of gray wolves that was found," said Rep. Norma Torres, D-California. "But that's three pups and one adult female and one adult male. I hardly think that that is an acceptable level that we would remove all protections from them.

If the bill passes, Washington state law would still protect wolf habitat from human interference except in the many acres of federal land in Washington, which includes several national forests and parks, said Shawn Cantrell, a vice president with Defenders of Wildlife, a conservation organization.

Currently, Cantrell said, the U.S. Forest Service protects wolf dens and habitat against timber harvesting, grazing and other human activity. If wolves are removed from the list of endangered species, "those obligations and protections for wolves would go away," he said.



before dawn Oct. 30 when she al-

legedly struck four children who

were crossing a two-lane road to

board a Tippecanoe Valley School

Corp. bus near Rochester, about

vier and Mason Ingle, and their

9-year-old sister, Alivia Stahl, were killed. An 11-year-old boy

who was severely injured in the crash remains hospitalized in

didn't realize that she was ap-

proaching a stopped school bus,

despite the activated stop arm

Shepherd told authorities she

Fort Wayne.

and flashing lights.

Six-year-old twin brothers Xza-

100 miles north of Indianapolis.

Alivia Stahl, center, and her twin brothers, Xzavier and Mason Ingle, were struck and killed by a pickup on Oct. 30.

#### Indiana woman pleads not guilty in crash that killed 3

Associated Press

ROCHESTER. Ind. northern Indiana woman accused of striking and killing three children with a pickup as they crossed a highway to board a school bus entered a preliminary not guilty plea Thursday.

Alyssa Shepherd, 24, appeared before a Fulton County judge on three counts of reckless homicide. The Rochester, Ind., woman also faces one misdemeanor count of passing a school bus when an arm signal device is extended, causing

Shepherd was driving a pickup

#### NATION

# **Experts seek ways to curb wildfire deaths**

By MATTHEW BROWN AND ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. - Creating fire buffers between housing and dry brush, burying spark-prone power lines and lighting more controlled burns to keep vegetation in check could give people better chance of surviving wildfires, according to experts searching for ways to reduce growing death tolls from blazes in California and across the U.S. West

Western wildfires have grown ever more lethal, a grim reality driven by more housing developments sprawling into the most fire-prone grasslands and brushy canyons, experts say. Many of the ranchers and farmers who once managed those landscapes are gone, leaving terrain thick with vegetation that can explode into flames.

That's set the stage for tragedy, as whipping winds and drought that are characteristic of climate change stoke wildfires like those raging in Northern and Southern California, killing scores of people in recent days.

Hundreds of thousands of people were told to evacuate ahead of the blazes. Some experts say there has been an over-reliance on evacuation and too little attention paid to making communities safe, plus not enough money for preventive measures.

Search crews found many victims inside or next to their vehicles, killed trying to flee. Survivors of the blaze that nearly obliterated the Northern California town of Paradise spoke of having minutes to escape and narrow roads rendered impassable by flames and traffic jams.

There are "so many ways that can go wrong, in the warning, the modes of getting the message out, the confusion." said Max Moritz. a wildfire specialist with the University of California Cooperative Extension program.

Moritz urged consideration of the creation of community "retreat zones" where residents can ride out deadly firestorms if escape seems impossible. That could be a community center, built or retrofitted to better withstand wildfires that can top 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit and reduce ordinary homes to ash.

Such fire protection can include sprinklers fire- and heat-resistant walls and roofs, and barriers to keep sparks out of chimneys and other openings, according to the International Code Council, a



Members of the California Army National Guard search a property for human remains at the Camp fire in Paradise, Calif., on Wednesday.

nonprofit that helps develop U.S building codes.

Creating more buffers around housing developments would help stave off wildfires.

They could be parks or irrigated agriculture, like the vineyards that helped keep last year's wildfires in California wine country from spreading into even more

Also helpful would be burying electric power lines, which can spark and fail in high winds that drive many of California's fiercest fires, said Jon Keeley, a research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey in California.

Sparks from utility equipment are suspected in the Northern California wildfire that consumed Paradise, destroying thousands

A proven method to guard against destructive fires is con-trolled burns. By intentionally lighting fires when conditions are right, property owners remove low-lying trees and brush that otherwise act as fuel.

In the mid-20th century, California ranchers burned hundreds of thousands of acres annually to manage their lands, said Lenya Quinn-Davidson, director of the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council.

That was phased out in the 1980s after California's fire management agency took over the burns. By last decade, the burned acreage dropped to less than 10,000 acres annually, Quinn-Da-

Agricultural land surrounding many towns became overgrown and housing developments pushed deeper into rural areas. Such was the case with the Northern California town of Redding ahead of a fire that began in July and de-stroyed more than 1,000 homes. It was blamed for eight deaths.

"You get these growing cities pushing out - housing developments going right up into brush and wooded areas. One ignition on a bad day, and all that is threatened," Quinn-Davidson said. "These fires are tragic, and they're telling us this is urgent."

The recent California fires set off a debate over what's to blame. President Donald Trump claimed in a tweet Saturday that "gross mismanagement of the forests" was the sole reason the state's fires had become so "massive, deadly and costly." He also threatened to withhold federal payments.
But most of California's recent

deadly fires are in grasslands and brushy chaparral — not thick for-est, Keeley said. "Thinning isn't going to change anything," he

Trump's assertion also ignored the huge federal land holdings in the state. It brought a quick backlash from the president of the California firefighters union, who described it as a shameful attack on thousands of firefighters.

To ease tensions, the White House sent Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to tour fire-damaged areas. Zinke struck a conciliatory tone and offered assistance in a meeting with California Gov.

Jerry Brown. "We need to work in unison to make sure we thin the forest. especially fire breaks, and make sure we have prescribed burns, Zinke told The Associated Press 'There's been a lack of management on Interior lands, on U.S. Forest Service lands and certainly with state lands."

California, not the Trump administration, is putting more money behind such efforts. In September, Brown signed a law providing \$1 billion over five years for fire protection, including more controlled burns and tree clearing.

Federal spending on hazardous fuels reduction has been flat in recent years, hovering just under \$600 million, even as direct firefighting costs jumped to a record \$2.9 billion last year.

For 2019, the Forest Service has proposed a \$3 million bump for its wildfire fuels program. At Interior, Zinke proposed a \$29 million cut in fuel management

#### Officials: California wildfire is deadliest in last 100 years

Associated Press

Wildfire experts say the Northern California wildfire that has killed at least 56 is the deadliest in a century.

California officials say the fire burning in a rural area far north of San Francisco killed more people than any blaze in the state's recorded history.

But the U.S. government doesn't closely track civilian casualties, and records from long ago are incomplete.

Stephen Pyne, a regent professor at Arizona State University's School of Life Sciences and author of "Between Two Fires: A Fire History of Contemporary America." and Crystal Kolden. a professor at the University of Idaho and expert in fire science, said 1918 was the last time more people were killed in a wildfire.

"For the modern era, this is definitely going to go down as the deadliest on record for the U.S., said Kolden, who has studied wildfires for 20 years since she worked as a wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service.

A century ago, the Cloquet Fire

broke out in drought-stricken northern Minnesota and raced through a number of rural communities, destroying thousands of homes and killing an estimated 1,000 people.

The fire helped prompt the federal government to start developing firefighting practices and

Pyne, who was a firefighter

before he began researching wildfires in 1977, said U.S. government agencies still don't keep good statistics on civilian casualties from wildfires.

"Fire statistics are not very good because they're remotely generated," he said.

"It's very hard to find out even how many houses burned in a

#### WORLD

# Death penalty to be sought for 5 in killing of Khashoggi

By Aya Batrawy

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates
— Saudi Arabia's top prosecutor
said Thursday he's seeking the
death penalty for five suspects
charged with ordering and carrying out the killing of dissident
Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi
at the kingdom's consulate in
Istanbul.

The disclosures by the prosecution appear aimed at distancing the killers and their operation from Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, whose decision-making powers have thrust him into the center of a global outcry over the killing.

Chief Saudi prosecutor Saud al-Mojeb's decision to seek the death penalty before trial is not unusual in Saudi Arabia.

Facing mounting international pressure, prosecutors also pointed the finger at two men who the finger at two men who since circle but stopped short of accusing them of ordering a hit on Khashoggi. The two are instead being accused of ordering Khashoggis forced return in an operation the Saudis allege went awry.

In a press conference later Thursday, Sheikh Shalan al-Shalan, spokesman and deputy attorney general, said the Oct. 2 killing was ordered by one man: the individual responsible for the negotiating team sent to forcibly bring Khashoggi back to Saudi Arabia.

He did not disclose that individual's name but said he was part of a 15-man team sent to Turkey comprising three groups: negotiators, intelligence and logistics.

He said that on the morning of the killing, the leader of the negotiating team saw that he would not be able to force Khashoggi to return "so he decided to kill him in the moment."

This appears to contradict a previous Saudi statement quoting Turkish intelligence saying the killing had been premeditated.

Al-Shalan said that Khashoggi's killers had set in motion plans for the operation on Sept. 29 — three days before his slaying in Istanbul. He said the killers drugged and killed the writer inside the consulate before dismembering the body and handing it over for disposal by an unidentified local collaborator. The body has never been found.

The brutal death of Khashogai, a Washington Post columnist who had been critical of the crown prince, has sent shock was around the world and led analysts and officials to believe a sensitive operation of this magnitude could not have been carried out without the prince's knowledge.

The latest Saudi account of what took place failed to appease officials in Turkey, who insist the killing and its cover-up were carried out by the highest levels of government.

Through a series of orchestrated leaks, including audio of the killing shared with Western intelligence, Turkey has attempted to keep pressure on the crown prince, who sees Turkey as a regional rival.

Turkey alleges that among

those sent to Istanbul was a forensics expert.

In an apparent reference to that specialist, al-Shalan said the organizer of the operation — who was not named — called on a specialist to be part of the team to erase evidence if Khashoggi needed to be forcibly returned to Saudi Arabia. Prosecutors said the specialist was working without the direct knowledge of his boss.

Saudi Ārabia said 21 people are now in custody, with 11 indicted and referred to trial. The Turkish government is demanding the suspects be investigated and put on trial in Turkey.

Among the high-level officials incriminated in connection with the killing is former deputy intelligence chief Ahmed al-Assiri, who was fired in the immediate aftermath of the killing.

Al-Assiri, believed to have been a close confidant of Prince Mohammed, and former royal court adviser Saud al-Qahtani are accused of planning and ordering Khashoggi's forced return to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi prosecutors said the men deemed Khashoggi a threat because of his work as a writer and because he was allegedly backed by groups and countries that are hostile to Saudi Arabia.

However, Saudi prosecutors stopped short of accusing al-Assiri or al-Qahtani of ordering the killing itself — further distancing the killers from the crown prince's inner circle and bolstering Saudi assertions that the killing was carried out by rogue agents who exceeded their authority.



JEAN-FRANÇOIS BADIAS/A

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny answers journalists after the European Court of Human Rights ruled in his case in Strasbourg,

#### Ruling: Russia's arrests of Navalny were political

By Mstyslav Chernov Associated Press

STRASBOURG, France
The European Court of Human
Rights ruled Thursday that Russian authorities' arrests of opposition leader Alexei Navalny were
politically motivated, a decision
that deals a blow to the Kremlin's
dismissal of Navalny as a mere
troublemaker.

Navalny hailed the ruling as an example of "genuine justice" and said it is an important signal for many people in Russia who face arbitrary detentions for their political activities

The court's highest chamber found that Russian authorities violated multiple human rights in detaining Navalny seven times from 2012 to 2014 and that two of the arrests were expressly aimed at "suppressing political pluralism."

It ordered Russia to pay Navalny \$71,000 in damages and called on Russia to fix legislation to "take due regard of the fundamental importance of the right to peaceful assembly."

The ruling is final and binding on Russia as a member of the Council of Europe, the continent's

human rights watchdog.

"I'm very pleased with this ruling — this is genuine justice," Navalny told reporters after the

earing. Russia is obliged to carry out the court's rulings, which enforce the European Convention on Human Rights, but it has delayed implementing past rulings from the court and argued against them as encroaching on Russian judicial sovereignty.

Navalny told reporters that he expects the Russian government to ignore this ruling and dismiss it on political grounds.

Navalny, arguably Russian President Vladimir Putin's most serious foe, has been convicted of fraud in two separate trials that have been widely viewed as political retribution for his investigations of official corruption and his leading role in staging antigovernment protests.

Over the years, Navalny has been detained by the police multiple times. In what has become almost a routine, police nab him outside his home or as he makes his way to an anti-government protest that he has organized. He has spent more than 140 days behind bars in the past year and a half.

Russia's representative to the ECHR, Deputy Justice Minister Mikhail Galperin, argued during a hearing earlier this year that Navalny's arrests were all justified and that his unauthorized rallies put public security at risk. He suggested Navalny staged his arrests to get media attention.

#### Japan's minister of cybersecurity has never used computer before

By Yuri Kageyama Associated Press

TOKYO— Japan's minister in charge of cybersecurity is in the spotlight for acknowledging he has never used a computer and making comments showing he has no idea what a USB port might be.

Ruling party lawmaker Yoshitaka Sakurada, also in charge of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, was replying Wednesday to questions from independent and opposition legislators.

"I give instructions to my aide and so I don't punch into a computer myself," he said. "But I am confident our work is flawless."

When asked about the power grid and malware, Sakurada said USB was "basically never used" in the utility systems, appearing to not know what it might be.

Lawmakers laughed incredulously at his replies, which were



Yoshitaka Sakurada, Japan's minister of cybersecurity, arrives at the prime minister's home in

highlighted in Japanese media. Questioning and answers in Parliament are also carried live on national TV.

Tokyo on Oct. 2.

Ministers in Japan almost always get parliamentary questions in advance. Often their answers are based on briefings from ministry bureaucrats. In Sakurada's exchange, bureaucrats were seen rushing over to give him sheets of paper with information.

Ministers are tapped by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and Sakurada was named to his position in the latest Cabinet reshuffle last month.

Although the minister is not expected to have much hands-on responsibility in the handling of either cybersecurity or the Olympics, Sakurada's high-profile bungling is an embarrassment for Abe.

Sakurada, 68, a graduate of Meiji University, was first elected to parliament in 1996, representing Chiba prefecture, near Tokyo

His favorite issues are pushing for Japan's economic prosperity and supporting its culture. "There is no genius that surpasses effort" is his favorite motto.

### German man on trial in poisoning of co-workers' lunches over years

Associated Press

BERLIN — A 57-year-old man has gone on trial in Germany on attempted murder charges on allegations he poisoned co-workers' sandwiches over several years.

The man, whose name hasn't been released in line with German privacy regulations, is accused of lacing colleagues' lunches with substances including lead acetate and mercury.

Prosecutors said Thursday as his trial opened in the western city of Bielefeld that the man poisoned the lunches from 2015 until 2018, the DPA news agency reported.

The man, who also faces charges of causing bodily harm, was arrested in May after surveillance video showed him putting a suspicious powder on a colleague's sandwich. Prosecutors say he was motivated by wanting to watch their physical deterioration.

One victim is in a coma with brain damage and another has serious kidney damage.

# **US-China rivalry in Asia-Pacific 'awkward'**

By Annabelle Liang and Elaine Kurtenbach Associated Press

SINGAPORE — The rivalry between the U.S. and China in the Asia-Pacific is proving "awk-ward" for Southeast Asian nations that do not want to have to choose between their friends, Singapore's prime minister said Thursday as he wrapped up a regional summit.

"It's easiest not to take sides when everybody else is on the same side," Lee Hsien Long said when asked about the competition between the U.S. and China in the region at a news conference. "But if you are friends with two countries which are on different sides, then sometimes it is possible to get along with both, sometimes

it's more awkward if you try to get along with both."

Lée, who hosted the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, said countries whose economies and strategic interests are deeply entwined with both powers would prefer not to have to decide, "but the circumstances may come where ASEAN may have to choose one or the other. I hope it does not happen soon."

The comments appeared intended to send a message to the U.S., represented this week by Vice President Mike Pence in place of President Donald Trump, and to China, whose growing influence across the region is abundantly clear at such international gatherings.

Trade tensions between the U.S. and China over Beijing's technology policy and other market access issues have added to strains within the region, especially since Trump took office in early 2017. The two sides have imposed tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's products in a standoff that has shown no sien of easing the simple of the control of the contro

Lee also remarked on Trump's 'America First'' deal-oriented diplomacy, saying it was a departure from the past, when "they were generous, they opened their markets, they made investments, they provided regional security, and in the indirect benefits of a prospering region, the U.S. prospered along."

"But now they say, 'No, that's not good enough. I want every deal to come,' and that will mean a different kind of relationship and we will have to get used to it if the U.S. decides that this is the direction which they would go in the long term," Lee said.

In comments to the gathering earlier in the day, Pence stressed the American commitment to the region, where he said there was no room for "empire or aggression."

In a veiled swipe at China's growing influence and military expansion in the South China Sea, he said, "Our vision for the Indo-Pacific excludes no nation. It only requires that every nation treat their neighbors with respect, they respect the sovereignty of all nations and the international rules of order."

The ASEAN meetings focus on

enhanced trade and security in a region of more than 630 million people. They ended with commitments to work toward a regional free trade agreement and enhance cybersecurity, counterterrorism efforts, e-commerce, disaster preparedness and enviromment protection

Many of the same leaders will head to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Papua New Guinea, where many of the same issues will be on the agenda.

While in Singapore, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang sought to rassure China's neighbors over its expanding reach, both economic and military, across the region and urged fellow Asian leaders to help reassure world markets roiled by trade tensions.

#### Pakistani officer's body is found in Afghanistan

Associated Pres.

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — The body of a Pakistani police officer who went missing in Islamabad last month was found in neighboring Afghanistan, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry and the Afghan ambassador said.

Tahir Khan Dawar disappeared on Oct. 27 and was presumed abducted by militants. The case baffled authorities as Islamabad is one of the safest cities in Pakistan.

Dawar's body was handed over to authorities by Afghan officials at the Torkham border crossing, authorities said Thursday.

Photographs purporting to show Dawar's badly beaten and tortured body surfaced on social media Wednesday. The bowas later found in Afghanistan's volatile Nangarhar province, which borders Pakistan, with a hand-written note saying he was abducted and killed by a littleknown militant group, Pakistani officials said.

Omar Zakhilwal, Afghanistan's ambassador to Pakistan, promised Kabul would investigate.

Interior Minister Shaharyar Afridi told lawmakers Thursday that Pakistan would pursue whoever killed Dawar. "He twice escaped suicide bombings in recent years," he said of Dawar.

Afridi said Dawar was kidnapped from Islamabad and then transported to Afghanistan.

The Pakistani Taliban denied any role in Dawar's abduction and killing.

Dawar was to be buried in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Thursday evening.

Pakistan and Afghanistan often accuse each other of turning a blind eye to militants who carry out attacks in both countries.





An explosion destroys a South Korean guard post in the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas in Cheorwon on

### **South Korea tears** down guard posts

By CHANG YONG JUN AND HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

CHEORWON, South Korea - South Korea exploded a frontline guard post Thursday, sending plumes of thick, black smoke into the sky above the border with North Korea in the most dramatic scene to date in the rivals' efforts to reduce animosities that sparked last year's fears of war.

Last week the two Koreas finished withdrawing troops and firearms from some of the guard posts along their border before dismantling them. The steps are part of agreements signed in September during a meeting between their leaders in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital.

On Thursday, South Korea's military invited a group of journalists to watch the destruction of a guard post with dynamite in the central border area of Cheorwon. The journalists were asked to stay hundreds of yards away as black smoke enveloped the hilly border area. They later watched soldiers and other workers bulldoze another guard post.

While most of the South Korean guard posts are being destroyed with construction equipment for environmental and safety reasons, dynamite was used for the first structure because of its location on a high hill where it was difficult to employ excavators, the Defense Ministry said.

North Korea is demolishing its guard posts with explosives, ac-

cording to South Korean media. The guard posts are inside the 155-mile-long. 2.5-mile-wide border called the Demilitarized Zone. Unlike its name, it's the world's most heavily fortified border, with an estimated 2 million land mines planted in and near the zone. The area has been the site of violence and bloodshed since the 1945 division of the Korean Peninsula, and civilians need special government approval to enter the zone.

The Koreas each agreed to dismantle or disarm 11 of their guard posts by the end of this month before jointly verifying the destruction next month. South Korea had about 60 posts inside the DMZ guarded by layers of barbed wire and manned by troops with machine guns. North Korea was estimated to have 160 such front-

Under the September agreements, the Koreas are also disarming the shared border village of Panmunjom and clearing mines from another DMZ area where they plan their first-ever joint searches for Korean War dead. They've also halted livefire exercises along the border.

The measures are among a set of steps they have taken since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reached out to Seoul and Washington early this year with a vague commitment to nuclear disarmament. The fast-improving inter-Korean ties have raised worries among many in South Korea and the United States as global diplomacy on the North's nuclear weapons program has produced little recent progress.

#### UK's May fighting for Brexit deal and her job

By JILL LAWLESS, RAPHAEL SATTER AND RAF CASERT Associated Press

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May was battling Thursday to save both her Brexit deal and her job as ministers quit her government and a growing list of lawmakers demanded her ouster over the divorce agreement struck between Britain and the European Union.

Less than a day after May won her Cabinet's grudging backing for the deal, two Cabinet ministers and a handful of junior government members resigned, and a leading pro-Brexit lawmaker from May's Conservative Party called for a no-confidence vote in the prime minister.

The hard-won agreement has infuriated pro-Brexit members of her divided party. They say the agreement, which calls for close trade ties between the U.K. and the bloc, would leave Britain a vassal state, bound to European Union rules it has no say in making.

A defiant May insisted that

Brexit meant making "the right choices, not the easy ones" and urged lawmakers to support the deal "in the national interest." She said the deal was best for business as it would help maintain easy trade with Europe and would reduce uncertainty.

But she has been weakened by the resignation of two senior Cabinet ministers, including Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab. Hours after he sat in the meeting that approved the deal, Raab said he "cannot in good conscience" support it.

In another blow to May, leading pro-Brexit lawmaker Jacob Rees-Mogg called for a vote of no-confidence in May, saying the Brexit deal was "worse than anticipated."

Under Conservative rules, a confidence vote in the leader is triggered if 15 percent of Con-servative lawmakers — currently - write a letter to the party's 1922 Committee of backbenchers. which oversees leadership votes. Only committee Chairman Gra-

ham Brady knows for sure how many missives have been sent, but Rees-Mogg's letter is likely to spur others to do the same.

He called for May to be replaced by a more firmly pro-Brexit politician, naming ex-Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, former Brexit Secretary David Davis and Raab as potential successors.

If a confidence vote is held and May loses, it would trigger a party leadership contest in which Conservative lawmaker can run. The winner would become prime minister without the need for a national election.

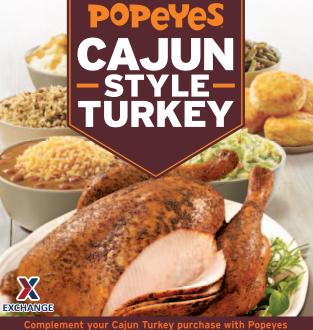
The turmoil prompted a big fall in the value of the pound, which was trading 1.5 percent lower at \$1.2797 as investors fretted that Britain could potentially crash out of the EU next March, a development that could see tariffs placed on British exports, border checks reinstalled and restrictions imposed on travelers and workers a potentially toxic combination for businesses.

A growing worry as Brexit day approaches is that companies will enact contingency plans that could include cutting jobs, stockpiling goods and relocating production overseas. May and her supporters say the alternatives to her deal — leaving the trading bloc without a deal or a second vote on Brexit — are not realistic options.

News that a deal had been struck after a year and a half of negotiations was welcomed in Brussels, and EU chief Donald Tusk called for a summit of leaders on Nov. 25 so they can rubberstamp the agreement.

The deal needs approval from Britain's Parliament before the U.K. leaves the bloc on March 29 and even if May survives as leader, the chances of that appear to be shrinking. Her Conservative government

doesn't have enough lawmakers of its own to get a majority and relies on the support of the Democratic Unionist Party from Northern Ireland, which says it will not back the deal.



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#### AMERICAN ROUNDUP

#### Police: McDonald's boss beaten over ketchup

SANTA ANA — Police are seeking a woman who pushed, punched and choked a McDonald's manager because she wanted ketchup.

Police in Santa Ana said the assault took place around 11 p.m. on Oct. 27 when the drive-thru customer entered the restaurant through an employee door and asked for the condiment. Video released by police shows the woman attack the manager after she was told she could not be in the building.

The footage shows other employees trying to help before a man, who police believe was with the suspect, ran into the restaurant and pulled the woman off the manager. The pair left.

#### Woman returns stolen puppy to boy, 12

MEMPHIS — A stolen puppy was returned to a 12-year-old boy in Tennessee whose family said he was shoved to the ground in the theft.

WREG-TV reported the Shelby County Sheriff's Office returned the 4-month-old American Bully named Diamond to the boy Tuesday.

John Black said Diamond was stolen last weekend when a car pulled up near his son, who was walking Diamond in their Memphis neighborhood. He said a man got out of the car, shoved his son to the ground and fled with Diamond. Authorities said a woman sur-

rendered Diamond to Memphis police when she recognized it from news reports.

#### Man, 91, arrested while visiting his wife

FAIRFIELD — Officials at a Connecticut nursing home called the police on a 91-year-old man visiting his wife.

Heinz Vonkuthy said Tuesday he was trying to kiss his wife goodbye at Regal Care when Fairfield police arrived and arrested him. The Connecticut Post reported Vonkuthy was charged with criminal trespass and released on a promise to appear in court.

Police said the nursing home manager told officers Vonkuthy was not allowed to kiss his wife, because they believed he would "pass items to his wife through his mouth."

Police said officers have been called to the nursing home 26 times regarding Vonkuthy.

#### Police share video of turkey chasing cruiser

CHESHIRE — Police in two Massachusetts communities said they've launched a joint investigation into the turkey who tried to chase down a police cruiser this week.

Cheshire Police Officer Dylan Vandoloski took video of the feathered suspect trotting behind his police car while he was on patrol. The Boston Globe reported

THE CENSUS

The approximate number of shark fins 10 Indonesian fishermen arrested in Hawaii are accused of trying to smuggle from the U.S. to Indonesia. They had been working on a Japanese-flagged boat and were
headed home via Honollul when airport security workers found shark fins in their luggage last week, according to court documents. At least 962 shark fins were found in 13 pieces of luggage. Authorities estimate that
the 190 pounds of seized shark fins have a street value of between \$6.695 and \$57.850.





EN GARVER, THE (PITTSFIELD, MASS.) BERKSHIRE EAGLE/A

#### First of the season

Jamie Gardner spreads salt on the sidewalk on North Street in Pittsfield, Mass., after the city's first snow of the season Wednesday.

Pittsfield Police Officer Darren Derby shared the video through his police department's social media accounts, asking "for help in identifying the subject in the video."

#### Cab driver rescues injured hawk from road

NEW YORK — A New York City cab driver is being hailed for saving an injured red-tailed hawk he found on the side of a major city parkway. The Wild Bird Fund said the

The Wild Bird Fund said the cab driver was driving on FDR Drive when he spotted the bird of prey sitting on the side of the road.

The Daily News reported he scooped up the bird into his car and held it with one hand while driving with the other hand.

The unidentified cab driver drove the hawk to Brooklyn where he flagged down a police officer who transported the hawk to the Wild Bird Fund.

The nonprofit wildlife rescue service said the hawk is on the

#### 2 guitars suspected stolen from juke joint

BESSEMER — The manager of an Alabama man who's been playing from his backyard juke joint for more than 60 years said she believes his guitars have been stolen.

Henry "Gip" Gipson's manager, Diane Guyton, told AL.com two of Gipson's guitars were stolen from Gip's Place, a Bessemer juke joint among the few remaining.

Guyton said the cream 1993 Fender Stratocaster and a Gibson Les Paul Jr. went missing last week but she had thought Gipson misplaced them.

The 98-year-old blues musician's tin-roofed garage has hosted the Rolling Stones' Keith Richards, Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page and others since 1952.

#### Hamilton descendant loans items to museum

PA PHILADELPHIA — The fifth great-grandson of Alexander Hamilton is loaning some family heirlooms to the Museum of the American Revolution.

The items include a Society

of the Cincinnati Eagle insignia worn and owned by Hamilton and a gold mourning ring — featuring a lock of his hair set under a glass jewel — worn by his wife after his death.

The heirlooms will be featured

The heritooms will be featured as part of the museum's "Year of Hamilton" that includes an exhibit called "Hamilton Was Here: Rising Up in Revolutionary Philadelphia."

Douglas Hamilton, 67, of Ohio said their famous distant relative wasn't something his family focused on. He said a cardboard box containing the heirlooms was quietly passed down from generation to generation.

#### Police: Man stashed meth in his underwear

ALLIANCE — Police in Ohio said a man arrested during a traffic stop had 33 grams of meth stashed in his underwear.

Police said the drugs that a 29year-old Sebring man had hidden in his underwear were intended for sale. Police said a 45-yearold Diamond man was wanted on failure to appear in court

Both men face multiple felony drug charges.

#### There is a new king of stone crab eating

MARATHON — A new stone crab eating champion was crowned in the Florida Keys.

Christian Gatti, of Big Pine Key, used an ice cream scoop to crack and then consume 25 stone crab claws in 15 minutes and 57 seconds Saturday at the Keys Fisheries Stone Crab Eating Contest. He beat 24 rivals including twice-past champion Juan Mallen of Miami

Marathon residents Greg D'Agostino and Ryan Beckett claimed their fourth consecutive team championship with a record-breaking time of 6:21.

The Keys are Florida's top regional supplier of stone crab claws.

From wire reports



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# Ford, Walmart to partner on self-driving deliveries

Rloomherg

Ford Motor Co. is pairing up with Walmart Inc., the world's largest retailer, to begin laying the groundwork for a driverless

grocery delivery service.

The two companies will test out the concept as part of an existing grocery-delivery partnership between Postmates and Walmart. Ford vehicles will eventually be mocked up to appear autonomous and simulate the process of consumers retrieving their groceries without the help of a human driver.

As self-driving cars come closer to reality, automakers and tech giants are increasingly viewing driverless deliveries as even more lucrative than the robo-taxis that will initially hit the streets to transport commuters. Automating the arrival of goods to consumers' front porches would slash shipping costs roughly in half, experts say. Consultant McKinsey & Co. predicts that in less than a decade, 80 percent of all items will be delivered autonomously.

Ford has already been testing autonomous deliveries of groceries and other goods with Postmates and Domino's Pizza Inc. Alphabet Inc.'s Waymo, which plans to launch a commercial



...\$1.31

.\$1.2792 ...1.3229 ...6.9391

..6.6031 17.9237

7.8333

#### Ford and Walmart are partnering to test a self-driving grocery delivery service.

driverless car service next month, has a partnership with Walmart to transport online shoppers to its

"Like us, Walmart believes that self-driving vehicles have an important role to play in the future of delivery," Brian Wolf, direc-tor of business development for Ford's autonomous vehicle business, wrote in a Medium post.

Ford has underwhelmed some

investors by plotting a later arrival for its autonomous vehicles than competitors including Waymo and General Motors Co.'s Cruise. The company has vowed not only to deliver a purpose-built self-driving vehicle by 2021, but also a viable business model to go along with it.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military 100-200 Milita

Bahrain (Dinar). Banrain (Dinar)..... British pound ....... Canada (Dollar)..... China (Yuan) ...... Denmark (Krone) . Egypt (Pound).....

Hong Kong (Dollar). Hungary (Forint)..... Israel (Shekel)......

#### US consumer prices offer mixed signals on inflation outlook

By SHORHANA CHANDRA Bloomberg

An underlying measure of U.S. consumer prices picked up in Oc-tober while trailing forecasts on an annual basis, offering mixed signs on inflation that will weigh on Federal Reserve discussions over the path of interest rate increases

Excluding food and energy, the core consumer price index rose 0.2 percent from the prior month, according to a Labor Department report Wednesday, the fastest gain in three months and in line with projections.

Inflation is gradually gaining traction, with help from solid household demand and a tight job market, while the tariff war with China may further boost price pressures. At the same time, some of the latest advance reflected quirks such as a rebound in used car prices, and the figures may potentially be seen as validating a recent decline in inflation expectations in financial markets.

The broader consumer price index rose 0.3 percent in October, matching estimates, after a 0.1 percent gain the prior month.

The biggest gain in energy prices since January boosted the headline index. The CPI report showed gasoline prices rose 3 percent from the prior month on a seasonally adjusted basis. Investors expect the Fed to

go ahead in December with this year's fourth interest rate increase, and policy makers see several more increases in 2019.

While the Fed's preferred gauge of inflation is a separate measure related to consumption. those October figures will be released on Nov. 29, making the CPI a key report at this time.

Nov. 14, 2018				
Dow Jones	-205.99			
industrials	25,080.50			
Nasdaq composite	-64.48			
	7,136.39			
Standard &	-20.60			
Poor's 500	2,701.58			
Russell 2000	-12.29			
	1,502.51			

Japan (Yen). .113.25 Kuwait (Dinar) Norway (Krone) .8.5006 ... 52.76 Poland (Zloty)...... Saudi Arabia (Riyal) Singapore (Dollar). South Korea (Won) ....1.3769 Switzerland (Franc) Thailand (Baht) ...... Turkey (Lira)..... (Military exchange rates are those 5.3905 available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance racilities in the country or issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Fo nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencie to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.) INTEREST RATES

Prime rate         5.25           Discount rate         2.75           Federal funds market rate         2.20           3-month bill         2.34           30-year bond         3.35

Gas prices were not available

**EUROPE GAS PRICES** 

Country Japan Change in price	Unleaded 	Super unleaded \$3.359 -6.0 cents	Super plus 	Diesel \$3.349 -2.0 cents
Okinawa Change in price	\$2.719 -7.0 cents			\$3.349 -2.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.759	=	\$3.399	\$3.389
Change in price	-6.0 cents		-6.0 cents	-2.0 cents
Guam	\$2.749**	\$3.149	\$3.389	=
Change in price	-7.0 cents	-6.0 cents	-7.0 cents	

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade For the week of Nov. 17-23







# Weekend



First-lady memoir gets a makeover Books, Page 38

'WIDOWS' PFAK

> Viola Davis embodies female empowerment in life, career and exciting new heist film

> > Movies, Page 24

Movies — 24-25

Video games — 26

Travel — 27-34

Music — 36-37

Crossword — 42

#### WEEKEND: GADGETS



PHOTOS BY KELVIN CHAN/

Alex Zivoder, CEO of Gohenry, a digital banking startup aimed at children, holds up a sample prepaid debit card Oct. 17 in London. Digital pocket money apps that come with prepaid cards are new tools for financial education as money increasingly goes digital.

# Pocket money apps aim to help kids in cashless world

By Kelvin Chan Associated Press

or kids growing up in today's cashless society, the piggy bank is going virtual. Father of two Roland Hall

turned to a British startup's digital pocket money app because his kids were still too young to get bank cards from traditional banks.

With prepaid debit cards linked to the app, Hall's kids, aged 8 and 10, can spend their allowance and chore money by shopping online or by tapping at contactless payment terminals in stores. Sound like a recipe for splurging? Not so, he said.

"When kids have cash, they want to spend it quickly. They want to go to the shops and spend it on rubbish," said Hall, an IT project manager. But an app lets them check their balances online, "which actually makes them start thinking about saving rather than getting rid of the money." Hall said he prefers giving digital allowances because he never has cash.

The app, which is called gohenry and expanded to the U.S. in April, is part of a wave of digital money apps combined with prepaid cards for kids as young as 6 that parents have access to. They are powerful new money management and savings tools that replace old-fashioned piggy banks and account passbooks. Some say they can help enhance financial literacy even as the growth of cashless payments upends traditional notions of money.

Globally, the number of noncash transactions rose 11.2 percent to 433 billion in 2015 from the year before and is forecast to nearly double by 2020, according to the World Payments Report by finnancial services firms Capgemini and BNP Paribas. Britain, Canada and Sweden are among the world's most cashless countries, according to a 2017 ranking by currency website ForexBonuses.



Paddy Kelly and his daughter Ailish use Gohenry, one of a wave of digital banking apps for children, Oct, 21 in London.

In China, where mobile payments rule, Alipay and WeChat Pay allow teens to hold accounts. Hong Kong offers a kids' version of its stored value Octopus card, based on older technology.

Merchants in big U.S. cities are increasingly going cashless because they can gather more customer data, which makes it harder for teens without bank cards, said Stuart Sopp, CEO of Current, a two years did U.S. fitsch stratum.

two-year-old U.S. fintech startup. "Parents are willing to pay to solve a problem that banks are not solving" — helping youngsters deal with digital money, said Sopp.

Currently, gohenry and similar companies typically charge a monthly or annual fee for prepaid debit cards. Parents can load money from their bank onto their own account, set weekly allowance amounts and spending limits, list chores to earn extra money, and block certain types of transactions, like online shopping.

Money is sent to kids' linked accounts, which they can use to set savings goals. The Current app rounds up each transaction and sweeps the change into a savings account.

Crucially, the apps send instant alerts about transactions, a feature parents love, said gohenry CEO Alex Zivoder.

"You give cash to a kid, how do you as a parent know what he will do with this money?" he said.

#### GADGET WATCH

#### Handy speakers fit where you need to use them

By GREGG ELLMAN Tribune News Service

he Bombottle MM, Scosche's waterproof wireless speaker with built-in MagicMount, is amazing when you look at the features packed inside. And it's even better when you hear the sound.

With many Bluetooth speakers, when you push the button, the volume keeps getting louder, but most often something inside your ears tells you when the speaker hits its optimum volume level based on the sound quality and

With the Boombottle, you almost want it to keep getting louder past the maximum volume levels — it sounds that good.

The speaker is 7.2 inches high with a rounded cupholder-friendly body 2.9 inches deep and weighs 1.25 pounds. Inside is Bluetooth 4.2, a pair of 12 W (6 W x 2) 45 mm speakers and a 4000 mAh battery to keep the music playing for up to 12 hours. A 4 level LED battery indicator shows you how much power is left before a USB charge is needed.
With an IP67 waterproof rating, the speaker

With an 1Po / waterproof rating, the speaker can withstand being submerged in up to three feet of water and the body has a dust-proof construction. A built-in microphone is designed for handsfree calling.

Those features alone would be enough for a

Those features alone would be enough for a great speaker, but there's a unique feature on the outside; the BoomBottle Opener. The built-in opener is right there on the back of the speaker, so as long as the speaker is packed for vacation, you'll have an opener with you for your favorite beverage.

Scosche's MagicMount technology lets the speaker magnetically attach to most metal surfaces. This lets the sound play from any direction, and when you pair two of the BoomBottle speakers and mount them further apart, the true stereo sound is even more impressive.

The mounting system also lets your smartphone magnetically secure itself to the top of the speaker with the included magic plate and 3M adhesive film.

A carabiner loop is built into the top and, of course, a carabiner is included. While the appearance has no bearing on the

sound, the black speaker grill is quite eye-pleasing. All the controls are easily accessed on a rear vertical rubber panel.

A 3.5 mm aux input port is there for connecting your music source directly, but the device is not waterproof when the port is in use.

Online: scosche.com; \$129.99, available in choice of black or black camouflage



Scosche/TN

The Boombottle MM, a waterproof wireless speaker with built-in MagicMount, includes a can opener on its back.

Even with some of the most functional and best computers made, the sound produced from the built-in speakers is just OK, if speakers are provided at all. Also, internal speakers are not directional; the speakers are stationary and the sound can't be sent one way or another.

The **Stage Air from Creative** is function- and cost-friendly. The soundbar instantly solves any computer's sound problem.

It's designed for under-monitor use with a compact 16-by-3-by-2.75-inch size and all the controls are on the right side, which really reduces wire clutter.

With Bluetooth pairing, the speaker isn't limited to computer use; it's ideal for using with a TV or any sound source. And if there's no Bluetooth inside your TV, you can make a direct 3.5 mm connection.

There's a standard USB port on the back, which lets the Stage Air work as a standalone music player. If you have music loaded on a USB storage device, just plug it in and the playing starts.

You get about six hours of playback from the 2,200mAh internal battery before a charge is needed or just plug the USB cable into your computer or an AC power source for endless power and sound.

The modern-looking speaker has metal, frontfacing grills covering a pair of 5 W speakers. Online: en.creative.com; \$45.54



WEEKEND

# CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



#### 'Unity Song' helps Americans bond over our universally loathed experiences

It's no secret that "Saturday Night Live" is a left-leaning show. After all, it's had a bit of a renaissance attacking the Trump administration and anyone associated with it.

Last weekend, though, the show chose to preach unity. The most-shared segment was cast member Pete Davidson giving a heartfelt apology to military veteran Dan Crenshaw for the previous week's jokes about Crenshaw's eyepatch. In another segment, a plea for unity came in the form of a ridiculous parody pop song aptly named "Unity Song."

The show's cast belts out the most empowered anthem about small inconveniences that probably has ever existed.

"We all hate wet jeans," sings Beck Ben-

We also, apparently, hate "bees that follow us around" and "the typing bubble in a text message, but we hate it even more when it's

The list includes "soft apples," "child actors who speak like adults," and "when a waiter kneels down at your table like he's a (expletive) football coach."

Then comes the chorus, which is a more direct message than "SNL" generally offers: "Because we don't agree on the big things and that's how it's gonna to be, but all of us hate the same small stuff and that's unity."

The list then continues, including "the word 'crotch,'" "warm public toilet seats" and "when the pilot stops the movie that we're watching to talk about the wind speed." Oh,

and also "the word 'moist,'" "guys who make loud sounds at the gym" and "when the pilot who had a lot to say about the weather doesn't say a damn thing during turbulence."

The song offers a few more examples before closing with the rousing chorus: "Let's stop looking at what makes us different and start seeing how we're the same, like how we all hate the sound the chip reader makes" referring to a credit card reader.

None of this is to suggest that "SNL" will radically change its tone. The show has always trafficked in political satire, and there's no reason to think that's going to change. But for a moment, it sought to bring us together. The Washington Post

Watch the video at tinyurl.com/yd8d8azl.

#### TV returns to 'Mars'

The second season of the television series "Mars" continues to blend fictional storytelling with fact to present a look at what the efforts to establish a colony on the red planet would look like in the year 2042.

· The Season 2 premiere of 'Mars' airs Saturday on AFN-Spectrum.

#### Obama tells her side

Now that Michelle Obama's been out of the White House for a while, it's time for well, if not a tell-all, a tell-much. In "Becoming," she gives insights into her upbringing. her courtship with Barack Obama, her familv and her thoughts about President Trump.

· Book review on Page 38.

#### 'Luigi's Mansion' on 3DS

Mario's brother Luigi investigates a spooky old home that he won in a contest he didn't enter in "Luigi's Mansion." The game, originally on GameCube in 2001, is now portable in this 3DS version, which includes a co-op mode. And Luigi is as scared as ever.

· Video game review on Page 26.

#### Weekend: Movies



# On female strength

#### Viola Davis talks new film 'Widows,' expressing her femininity

By JAKE COYLE Associated Press

o Viola Davis, being naked on screen or onstage means more than having your clothes off. It means ridding yourself of self-consciousness and ego. It means exposing yourself.

'Oftentimes you do see dynamic acting - there are a lot of really dynamic actors — but there is a sense of vanity,' Davis said. "I always say that when people get naked on stage it always looks like they've been to the gym for about five years. And we all know that's not the case. When we get naked in life, we may have some rolls of flesh around our stomach. You may have some stretch marks. Now that's

There was, memorably, no vanity in Davis' Rose in "Fences," a performance that reached its aching crescendo in her shattering, snot-dripping "18 years of my life" monologue. But in Steve McQueen's electric Chicago underworld thriller "Widows," Davis' raw intimacy includes a dimension she has rarely, if ever, gotten to express in film - her sexuality.

"It's a part of the strength. It's a part of the badass-ness. It's a part of the vulnerability," Davis said. "The first scene in the movie I'm in bed with Liam Neeson. That may seem

like not a big deal to you, but to me that was a big deal."

In "Widows," McQueen's follow-up to the Oscar-winning "12 Years a Slave," Davis stars as the wife of a veteran
thief (Neeson) who dies, along with his crew, in a heist gone wrong. For their spouses, it's almost as if their lives have also been extinguished. But with Veronica Rawlins' leadership, they (the other women are played by Michelle Rodri-guez, Elizabeth Debicki and Carrie Coon) resolve to take over their late husbands' criminal plans and pull off what none expect them capable of.

"This was a great experiment in exploring how to work out getting back your power," Davis said. "In my life, I'm still learning that."

When a reporter points out that she — one of the most movingly outspoken advocates for on-screen representation and inclusion — seems quite in control of her considerable power, Davis demurs. "Like everyone, I have my good moments and bad moments.

Davis has won an Oscar (for "Fences"), an Emmy (for

"How to Get Away with Murder") and a Tony, twice (for "Fences" and "King Hedley II") — a trifecta that no other black actor has accomplished, and few others, for that matter. Along the way, her impassioned acceptance speeches have been some of the most potent thunderbolts of inspiration in the wider fight for diversity, beamed out to the unrepresented and the overlooked everywhere.

But it's been almost a decade since her "Doubt" co-star Meryl Streep pleaded "My God, somebody give her a movie!" at the Screen Actors Guild Awards (and later called her "possessed to the blazing, incandescent power"). Since then, Davis has been a mainstay on screens big and small, but she has seldom — except in the Shonda Rhimes ABC series and now "Widows" — been front and center.

For McQueen, Davis' lack of leading performances is one

of the most glaring injustices in Hollywood.

"She can only be judged by the films she gets to do. Don't forget: she could not really make a living in film to more one was giving her any roles," McQueen said by phone. "She was not given an opportunity to thillfill her crist. So she had to go on television. Violas 53 years old. She should have a vost body of work by now."

Does Davis feel the same way?

"I mean, yeah," she sighs. "I sort of feel that sometimes.

But I'm honored that I've gotten to this point. This is a very privileged life. I feel like if I sit here and I say, 'I should have had more lead roles,' some dissatisfaction with the moment
— I can't do that. I really can't."

Davis, the fifth of six children, grew up impoverished, in dilapidated homes in Rhode Island, the daughter of an alcoholic father who was abusive to Davis' mother.

"I became an actor because I was an observer. It's said that actors are observers and they're thieves. You observe life and then you steal from it," Davis said. "The beauty of how I grew up is I saw so many horrific but glorious things happen in public. When you grow up poor, nothing is under-cover. You hear everything played out because people are living in close proximity to each other. You know who the alcoholic is. You know who's getting beaten by their husband.

Davis has said before that she's motivated to honor the dreams of her "8-year-old self." "She's always sitting there," Davis said. "And, really, it's easy to make her happy, whereas it's sort of hard to make me happy now."



#### 'Widows' elevates pulpy heist thriller to high art

By KATIE WALSH Trihune News Service

Steve McQueen wants to make you look. His achingly long takes in "Twelve Years a Slave" forced viewers to confront the harsh realities of slavery; his gaze teased and tortured us in equal measure in the sex-addiction drama "Shame." With "Widows," a masterfully made female-driven heist film, McQueen's camera both directs and distracts the eve, connecting characters with long takes while lulling viewers into a trance before an explosion of violence. In this genre exercise, McQueen seems to be saying look again, look harder, because underneath the roiling tension of big-money heists and the crunching of political gears is an examination about the ugly machinations of power, money and patriarchy.

McQueen has teamed up with "Gone Girl" and "Sharp Objects" writer Gillian Flynn to adapt the 1980s British TV crime series written by Lynda La Plante for the big screen. Flynn's story trademarks are in place: flinty yet vulnerable women, story twists galore. Fused with McQueen's unflinching eye, the pulpy political thriller is elevated to high art, while the bold, brash criminal capers inject a shot of adrenaline into the British auteur's style. A heart-stopping opening heist sequence toggles between extreme violence and intimate sensuality, laying the blueprint for the pattern that repeats throughout the film.

The widows in question are Veronica (Viola Davis), Alice (Elizabeth Debicki), Linda (Michelle Rodriguez) and Amanda (Carrie Coon). Their husbands are killed during a sloppy, bloody run from the police after stealing \$2 million, leaving their women adrift, penniless and with no means of generating their own income. Linda's dress shop is repossessed by the loan sharks collecting on her husband's gambling debts, and Alice has never worked a day in her life. Veronica starts to feel the pressure from the campaign of Jamal Manning (Brian Tyree Henry), running to be the first black alderman of Chicago's 18th ward against the established, corrupt white candidate Jack Mulligan (Colin Farrell). Jamal claims the \$2 million came from his war chest and expects it back. His terrifying brother, Jatemme (Daniel Kaluuya), isn't afraid to shed blood

Harry (Liam Neeson), Veronica's late husband, has left her a ledger with notes for his next heist, so she assembles her team of hapless wives and mothers. "The best thing we have going for us is who we are," she tells them, so they use their womanly wiles to get what they need to pull this off. It's not exactly the tough-girl female action-hero content we expect (though Cynthia Erivo's Belle brings a muscular physicality), but rather an exploration of just how a group of women restrained by social expectations might realistically pull this off.

The measured marathon of tension punctuated by moments of shocking violence operates on macro and micro levels. The film examines the relationship of money and power structurally and intimately. Within the nepotistic local politics of Chicago, dynasties reign, lining their pockets with hollow gestures of equality while enforcing systems of violence. On an intimate, domestic level, women are cuffed by their roles as wives. But they're not wives anymore, they're widows, and so much of their journey is learning how to navigate this unfriendly world without a man. It's not easy, but the vision of a matriarchy McQueen and Flynn imagine, headed up by a magnetically simmering Davis, is hard-fought and well-earned

"Widows" is rated R for violence, language throughout, and some sexual content/nudity. Running time: 129 minutes.

#### WEEKEND: MOVIES

### 'Fantastic Beasts' sequel a mixed bag of wonders

By Jake Coyle Associated Press

ike the bottomless trunk toted by "magizoolologist" Newt Scamander, "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" is a mixed bag of wonders.

Newt (Eddie Redmayne) can reach into his suitcase and, like Mary Poppins before him, pull out just about anything. And it sometimes feels as though J.K. Rowling

— a screenwriter here for the second time is similarly infatuated by her unending powers of conjuring. In this overstuffed second film in the five-part Harry Potter prequel series, every solved mystery unlocks another, every story begets still more. Narratives multiply like randy Nifflers (one of the many species of creature in Newt's bag).

The usual problem for spinoffs is their thinness or their unfulfilled justification — especially ones that stretch an already much-stretched tale. (There were eight Potter movies.) But neither are issues in the two "Fantastic Beasts" illnis, each directed by former "Potter" hand David Vates. Both movies are rooted in purpose. "The Crimes of Grindelwald," especially, is an impressively dark and urgent parable of supremacist ideology aimed squarely at today's demagogues of division. And neither film lacks in density of detail, character or story.

No, the only real crime of "Grindel-No, the only real

No, the only real crime of "Grindel-wald" is its sheer abundance. In zipping from New York to London to Paris (with ministries of magic in each locale), this latest chapter in Rowling's pre-Potter saga feels so eager to be outside the walls of Hogwarts (which also get a cameo) that it resists ever settling anywhere, or with any of its widely scattered characters—among them Newt, the conscientious dark magic investigator Tina (Katherine Waterston), the New Yorker no-maj Jacob (Dan Foglery, Tina's sister and Jacob's sweetheart Queenic (Alison Sudol) and the haunted former schoolmate of Newt's.



VARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

Albus Dumbledore enlists his former student Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne, above) to stop the dark wizard after he escapes custody in "fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald," co-starring Zoe Kravitz, Jude Law and Johnny Depp.

Leta Lestrange (Zoe Kravitz).

No one does the foreboding sense of a looming battle better than Rowling. Now, it's the rise of Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp), freshly escaped from prison, who casts a lengthening shadow over the land. With a blond shock of hair and a ghostly white face, Grindelwald is Rowling's magical version of a white nationalist, only he believes in the elevation of wizards — "purebloods" — over those who lack magical powers, or "no-majes." It's 1927, and the dark clouds of fascism

his brother Theseus (Callum Turner), who like Tina is an "Auror" who enforces magic law, Newt responds: "I don't do

sides."

The events of "The Crimes of Grindelwald" will test Newt, just as they will

are swirling; World War II feels right

black fabric, like a wannabe Christo.

around the corner. In one of the movie's

Newt (Redmayne, cloyingly shy) resists drawing battle lines. When pushed by

many tricks, Grindelwald drapes Paris in

Despite the gathering storm, the pacifist

anyone trying to follow its many strands.
The hunt is on for at least three characters
— the missing Queenie, the on-the-lam
Grindelwald and Credence Barebone (Eza
Miller), the powerful but volatile orphan

who spends much of the film seeking answers to his identity. He's the Anakin Skywalker of "Fantastic Beasts," whose soul is fought for by both sides.

If all of this sounds like a lot, it most definitely is, and that's not even mentioning Jude Law joining in as a young Albus Dumbledore, who turns out to be awfully roguishly handsome under that 2Z-top beard. But our time here with him is short, just as it is with so many characters who — to the film's credit — we yearn for more of 'Fogler's Jacob, especially). There is a flicker of a flashback that hints at a long-ago, maybe-sexual relationship between Dumbledore and Grindelwald; it would be the film's most intriguing revelation if it wasn't merely baited for future installments.

Siblings are everywhere in "The Crimes of Grindelwald." Just as in the houses of Hogwarts, Rowling delights in duality and the interplay of light and dark. Even within the Aurors there are competing methodologies of law enforcement to face the growing threat. Newt is carried along like an avatar of sympathy: he believes that every beast can be tamed, that every traum can be healed.

Rowling's only source material going into the "Fantastic Beasts" films was a slender 2001 book in the guise of a Hogwarts textbook. But she has, with her mighty wand, summoned an impressively vast if convoluted world, one that's never timid in exploring the darkness beneath its enchanting exterior. And, with Yates again at the helm, "The Crimes of Grindelwald" is often dazzling, occasionally wondrous and always atmospheric. But is also a bit of a mess. Even magic bags can be overweight.

"Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" is rated PG-13 for some sequences of fantasy action. Running time: 134 minutes.

#### 'Instant Family' takes smart, funny look at adoption

By Katie Walsh Tribune News Service

irector/co-writer Sean Anders really takes the 'instant" part of his new family dramedy "Instant Family" to heart. The film drops us right into the lives of Pete (Mark Wahlberg) and Ellie (Rose Byrne) with little fanfare, as if to say to the audience, "Catch up guys, we've got a lot of story to tell." It's not too difficult to pick up what Anders is putting down, as Pete and Ellie are the kind of nice, upper-middle-class, fast-talking, attractive white couple who frequently populate this kind of film.

They're missing one thing: kids. As business partners who flip run-down houses, they've never met a challenge they couldn't tackle, so off to foster parenting class they go. They don't know just how big of a challenge they're in for.

Anders, who is known for the "Daddy's Home" movies and other broad comedies, drew largely from his own experiences as an adoptive parent for the script, which he co-wrote with writing partner John Morris. He and his wife adopted a set of siblings, and that's exactly what Pete and Ellie do after cautiously approaching a group of teenagers at an adoption fair. The sassy, defiant Lizzy (Isabela Moner) makes an impression, and it turns out she comes with two incredibly cute and incredibly difficult younger siblings, Juan (Gustavo Quiroz) and Lita (Julianna Gamiz).

Anders smartly punctures any representational issues in the tightly packed script. When Pete worries about looking like a "white savior" to kids of color, the sardonic social workers Karen (Octavia Spencer) and Sharon (Tig Notaro) sarcastically offer to write "whites only" on their file, much to the couple's chagrin. And yet, it does end up being a white savior story in a way - the married, welloff white couple does end up being more equipped to handle raising three kids than their mother Carla (Joselin Reves) who struggles with addiction and incarceration and doesn't feel



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/AP

Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne play a couple getting on-the-job training in parenting when they take in three foster kids in "Instant Family."

ready to take on the kids, no matter how much Lizzy wants to be reunited with her.

Moner, who proved to be a strong screen presence in "Sicario 2: Day of the Soldado" and "Transformers: The Last Knight," gives perhaps her fiercest and most complex performance yet, as a foster teen who is more adult than kid and has a harder time accepting a "new" mom and dad. She truly sells the sorrow and ache Lizzy feels for her own mother, while struggling to accept that she needs to receive the support Pete and Ellie are offering to her and her siblings.

It's not all heart-wrenching fights and impossible issues. "Instant Family" is also incredibly funny, deftly using humor to address any potential social issue blind spots. Speaking of blind, there's a running gag about one of the other foster parents, a stern woman named October (Iliza Schlesinger), who unknowingly wants to enact her own version of "The Blind Side" Anders stacks the supporting cast with scene-stealing character actresses like Margo Martindale and Joan Cusack, while Spencer and Notaro deserve a spinoff series for their smack-talking social worker duo

While the pace of "Instant Family" can be relentless, with the supporting cast and a whole lot of genuine authenticity, Anders hits that sweet-spot of hilarious and heartwarming, where the sweetness and tears are well-deserved, and earned.

"Instant Family" is rated PG-13 for thematic elements, sexual material, language and some drug references. Running time: 119 minutes.

#### WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

# In 'Luigi's Mansion,' the other Mario brother wrestles with ghosts in this fun, spooky 3DS port of the GameCube classic



By Brittany Vincent Shacknews.com

uigi's Mansion" originally debuted on the GameCube in 2001. Now, 17 years late; it's found a home on the Nintendo 3DS, thanks to a port from Grezzo and Nintendo's baffing decision to aim for the handheld when the Switch is the port machine that typically gets the most love as of late. It's a bit strange that a sequel to the game, 2013's "Luigi's Mansion: Dark Moon," hit the 3DS before the original did, but I'm thankful for it.

The game kicks off with Luigi navigating a spooky old mansion. Turns out that he's actually won the mansion as part of a contest that he didn't enter—sign me up—and he's meeting Mario outside to give it a look. Except when he gets there, Mario isn't there, and he decides to go in anyway. He makes his way up the path to the dwelling, despire tist clearly green and withered exterior (you should know it's going to be scary, Luigi) and steps right in, armed with nothing but his trusty flashlight. As expected, it's dark, dank (in a bad way) and plenty of ghosties are up to no good in there.

Luigi begins to explore the mansion armed with a gold key seemingly dropped by a ghost, and is attacked by an enormous gold ghost. Luckliy, the eccentric professor E. Gadd is there with his Poltergust 3000 to suck up the ghost and keep it from terrorizing poor little Luigi. But as it turns out, there are plenty of others skulking about in the mansion. Professor E. Gadd has been investigating the mansion, and it appears Mario went in, and just never came back out again. Luigi has to suit up with the Poltergust 3000 on his own to find Mario and ward off all the ghastly ghouls standing in his way. Too bad he's a huge fraidy-cat, though, as his teeth chatter throughout the entirety of the game.

Controlling Luigi is a breeze, although it can be a bit fiddly to move him around while locked in a vacuum battle with a ghost. It can be awkward to position him when you need to move in the opposite direction, but with some practice it becomes second nature. Luigi can stun ghosts with his flashlight, and then he can use the Poltergust to suck them up once their "heart" pops up. The ghost needs to be pulled in the opposite direction with the Poltergust, kind of like how you'd grapple with a fish in minigames, and when the counter that appears on the ghost falls to zero, you've successfully caught it in your vacuum canister. Lather, rinse, and repeat — you're a bona file Ghostbuster, now!

There's a variety of simple puzzles to solve as you guide Luigi through the mansion, but the main draws are, of course, the ghosts and figuring out where they're going to appear. Often, you need to figure out how to get them to move in a certain way that'll make Luigi able to capture them. This might mean vacuuming a certain item or set piece or even finding a particular thing to get the ball rolling. It's a fun way to ensure you're always forced to think on your toes, and a good way to keep players engaged. From my dalliances with the original game, it was immediately clear that the game obviously looks and feels much better, with additional details with textures, character designs (Luigi is taller and more stretched out this time around), and the 3D effect works fantastically. It adds some much-needed depth to a game where the darkness feels oppressive and terrifying all around you.

If you're too spooked to play alone, there's a co-op' mode to play alongside a friend. I was able to test this with a friend to try out exploring the entirety of the mansion, as well as new modes: Portrait Battles and Ghost Training, which worked swimmingly. Note that you do need the full game for an additional player if you want to go through the mansion. Download Play will allow others to play through the other modes. While there isn't the same four-player mode "Luigi's Mansion: Dark Moon" available here, it's still an excellent feature to be able to play with a friend if you choose to, especially with all the scaredy cats out there.

If you've never adventured with Mario's lankier brother throughout his haunted mansion exploits, "Luigi's Mansion 3DS" is absolutely worth the price of admission. In fact, even if you tore through it when it first made its debut, it's fun to recruit a friend to go through it with you again — perhaps one of you can pretend the other is Mario in spirit, looking for himself? In any case, with "Luigi's Mansion 3" on the horizon, it's good to be able to play the entirety of the two-game series so far on one system.

#### WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

By NANCY MONTGOMERY Stars and Stripes

o you like fossils? How about stuffed owls? Ever seen the skeleton of a cave bear? Vicenza's Natural History and Archaeological Museum has them all. It presents artifacts of the local area from the Middle Paleolithic era, when Neanderthals roamed Europe, to the Neolithic, when homo sapiens began farming, to the Bronze Age and finally to Roman times and the invasion and reign of the Lombards.

Not that I could read any of the explanatory signs, which are in Italian. But I'd decided to tour the museum on a first Sunday of the month when it's free. So not understanding a lot of what I was looking at was expected, but

not costly.

Parts of the museum, located downtown next to the Santa Corona Church since 1991, seem themselves somewhat dated, with spartan exhibits arranged often in rows behind glass. The flora in particular were dusty and faded, and the stuffed birds just seemed sad.

A special exhibit that started in September and runs through June promised something special, "Orsi & Uomi" — Bears and Men

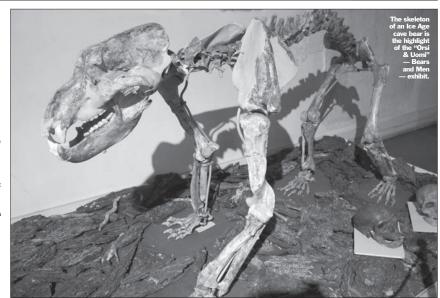
"Journey to discover the profound relationship that links man to bear from prehistory to our days," said the promotional poster after I Google-translated it. "A look back at the life and habits of this legendary, feared and revered animal, which already populated our territory 70,000 years ago."

They were referring to cave bears, which inhabited low mountainous areas like the Berici hills of Vicenza. They lived in Europe at the same time as Neanderthals and like them overlapped with homo sapiens. To catch you up:

"Along with mammoths, lions and woolly rhinos, cave bears (Ursus spelaeus) were once among Europe's most impressive creatures. Males weighed up to 1,500 pounds, 50 percent more than the largest modern grizzlies," according to Smithsonian Magazine. "Prehistoric humans painted images of the animals on cave walls and carved their likeness in fragments of mammoth tusk. But the relationship between humans and cave bears has been mysterious. Were humans prey for the bears, or predators? Were bears objects of worship or fear?"

I don't know if the exhibit took a swing at those questions. But the cave bear skeleton was impressive, and there were nice photos and a video of modern bears frolicking on the Finnish taiga.

It's not clear what killed off the cave bears, although climate change, starvation and competition for caves are thought to have contributed. It's also unknown why the burly, possibly cannibalistic Neanderthals went extinct, although it happened a few thousand years after anatomically modern humans showed up on



# A walk on the wild side

Vicenza's natural history museum houses artifacts dating back to the Paleolithic era, and offers free admission on some Sundays



the scene. Just saying

Ecology and Evolution.'

But the bears and the Nean-

2.4 percent of the DNA of brown

bears today traces back to the

cave bear, according to a study

published in August in "Nature

The finding marked just the

second time that researchers

have found an extinct ice age

creature's genes within in a

living relative, according to

The first was in humans.

Between 1.5 and 4 percent of

comes from Neanderthals.

the non-African human genome

National Geographic.

derthals live on in a way: 0.9 to





#### ON THE QT

#### DIRECTIONS

Address: Contra' San Corona 4, Vicenza Italy 36100

#### TIMES

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (last entry at 4:30 p.m.) Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Monday. July and August open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

3.50 euros (about \$4). Free the first Sunday of the month.

The museum has no cafe, but there are many eateries nearby

#### INFORMATION

Website: www.museicivicivicenza.it; Phone: (+39) 0444 222815

- Nancy Montgomery



PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

Vicenza's Natural History and Archaeological Museum features various naturalistic and archaeological exhibits and displays and

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com Twitter:@montgomerynance

offers free admission on the first Sunday of the month.

#### WEEKEND: TRAVEL

#### **Europe**

# Nature and romance in Italy's lakes district

Thern Italy's seductively beautiful lakes district—in the shadow of the Alps—seems hadow of the communing with nature. Though just an hour north of Milan, this area feels a world away from the business and bustle of Italy's second

Tourists have several lakes to choose from, and all have their charms — especially Lake Garda and Lake Maggiore. But my favorite is Lake Como, offering the best mix of accessibility, scenery, sight-seeing and relaxation, with a heady whiff contractive and desired and the second of the contractive and desired and the second of the contractive and desired and relaxation.

of aristocratic old days.

Lake Como is lined with luxurious villas, crowned by snow-capped mountains,
and busy with fleets of little ferries darting from one cute town to another. The
most famous town is Bellagio, the self-proclaimed "Pearl of the Lake" — a combination of old-world classiness and new-world
luxury. Steep steps rise from the harborfront up to a smattering of sun-splashed
squares. With spendy five-star hotels and
high-end shopping, Bellagio pleases wellheeled travelers.

While a part of me enjoys the "tramp in a palace" feeling I get in Bellagio, my ideal Lake Como home is Varenna. Easily accessible by train from Milan, Varenna packs its 800 residents into a compact townscape on the less-developed side of the lake. Individual homes are defined only by their pastel colors, and the old town has no streets — just stepped lanes. The passerella — a lakeside promenade connecting the ferry dock with the old town center — is a fine place to stroll.

On Lake Como, villas face the lake with front doors that welcome visitors arriving by boat (and ferries arriving from Bellagio and Varenna). Many villas are owned by the region's "impoverished nobility." Bred and raised not to work, they eventually were unable to pay for the upkeep of their sprawling houses. While some villas have been bought by the region's nouveaux riches, others have been transformed into hotels or sightseeing attractions.

For garden low-



Rick Stoves

roy garden lovers, Villa Carlotta is the best — especially in spring, when many of its flowers are in peak bloom. But the dreamiest estate is Villa del Balbianello, which perches on a promontory

of Lenno and was featured in the movies
"Casino Royale" and "Star Wars: Episode
II." Built at the end of the 18th century on
the remains of an old Franciscan church,
the villa reflects the exotic vision of its
towner, explorer Guido Monzino. The real
masterpiece here is the terraced garden
and splendid loggia, where the land fits
the architecture and landscaping in a
particularly lovely way.

Though it lacks the cozy charm of Lake Como, Lake Maggiore is a suitable backup destination. The best part of any visit here is a wander through the exotic gardens and elaborate villas built by the wealthy Borromeo family, who lovingly turned several of the lake's islands into retreats.

Your handy transportation hub for these islands is the resort town of Stresa. While I find it generally lacking in character, it does have a fine waterfront promenade and stately 19th-century lakeside hotels dating back to when this town was on the Grand Tour circuit. Stresa is famous for



MERON HEWITT/Ricksteves.com

Villa del Balbianello, the home of explorer Guido Monzino and the setting of several Hollywood movies, perches dreamily over Lake Como.

its Grand Hotel des Iles Borromees, which served as an infirmary during World War I, hosting a recovering Ernest Hemingway. The writer later returned to the hotel, setting part of his novel "A Farewell to Arms" here.

But Stresa is mainly worthwhile as a jumping-off joint for Lake Maggiore's garden islands. The best one is Isola Bella, dominated by a plastial villa boasting a grand hall with an 80-foot-high dome, paintings from the Borromeo family's private collection, and an 18th-century grotto, decorated from ceiling to floor with shell motifs and black-and-white stones.

The other main Borromean islands are

Isola Madre, featuring the first Borromeo palace — dark and somber with a huge collection of dolls, marionettes and exquisite 17th-century marionett heater sets — and Isola Pescatori, the smallest and most residential of the three, with a couple of seafood restaurants, picnic benches, views, and, blissfully, little else to do.

While you can visit Italy's lakes as a day trip from Milan, I recommend spending the night. You'll really feel the romance of Europe.

Rick Steves (www.ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

#### TOP TRAVEL PICKS

#### **Yuletide in Denmark**

There's a certain mystique about Christmas in the northern latitudes, and with all that darkness to contend with at this time of year, it's small wonder that the feeling of coziness known as hygge in Danish blankets that land like newly fallen snow at the of time of the holidays. Not quite Christmas markets per se, these sensuous sites in the fairy-tale land of Hans Christina Andersen serve up something special for the holidays.

Tivoli: Copenhagen's famed plans oze whimsy and childhood innocence throughout all seasons, but particularly at Christmas, when the nostalgic architecture of the circa-1843 park is decked out with hearts, baubles and boughs of spruce. As darkness falls, thousands of incandescent multi-colored lights bathe the postcard-overhy scene in a mellow glow.

Visitors can enjoy the rides running at this time of year or simply stroll. For a treat that's as Danish as it gets, head to one of the restaurants serving the Christmas buffet lunch known as Julefrokost.

Young visitors can visit with Santa in his grotto, or decorate a heart-shaped honey cake. The Tivoli Youth Guard march in time to Christmas carols during special illuminated parades. On



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler

Dec. 13, the holiday known as Santa Lucia, a parade made up of more than 100 children winds its way through the gardens.

Tivoli is open for the Christmas season Nov. 17-Dec. 31. Tickets cost 120 Danish Krone (about \$18.40) for visitors ages eight and up, entry for ages 3-7 goes for 50 DKK, and ages 2 and under enter free. Online: tivoligardens.com

gardens.com
Bakken: far fewer visitors
to the Danish capital manage
to find this traditional flun spot
located about a half-hour train
ride north of the city. Danes have
a soft spot for this amusement
park in a forested setting, which
for the first time in its 435-year
history will open its gates for the
Christmas season. A Christmas
market, several attractions up

and running, traditional dining establishments, Santa Claus and singing reindeer are just a few of the draws. The park is open Fridays through Sundays only from Nov. 23 through Dec. 22. Online: tinyurl.com/yagt2oes

Christiania: The rough-hewn commune known as Christiania is a semi-autonomous "free town" on the island of Amager just a short hop from Copenhagen. The Christmas market here has more the air of an Oriental bazaar. The market is open daily Dec. 8-20; entry is free. Online: dengraahal dk/julemarked

The above represent just the tip of the iceberg in terms of Copenhagen's Christmas markets; for a more complete list, see tinyurl.com/yc4y2v27.

Christmas in Den Gamle By:
Denmark's second-largest city
of Aarhus is home to Den Gamle
By or The Old Town, an openair museum made up of some 75
historic houses relocated from all
over Denmark. Here, visitors can
see how Christmas in Denmark
has been celebrated through
the ages. The Mayor's House
paints a picture of history of the
holiday from the 1600s to 1850,
while the shops on Sondergade
are decorated as they would have
been in 1927.

Other areas re-create the look and feel of a 1970s celebration. A majestic Christmas tree graces the Torvet square, where treats



Con Comments from

Parades, festive decorations and Santa await as Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens opens for the Christmas season Nov. 17-Dec. 31.

are sold from wooden stalls. Entrance fees go for 135 DKK adults; children up to 17 get in

adults; children up to 1/ get in free. Online: dengamleby.dk

#### Europa-Park becomes Rolling Stone Park

This weekend, Europa-Park in Rust, Germany, takes on a new role, that of rock festival venue.

On Nov. 16-17, an event titled "Rolling Stone Park" offers more than 30 concerts across four stages. All performance areas are indoors and interconnected.

are indoors and interconnect Names on the bill include Element of Crime, Alligator, Cat Clyde, The Flaming Lips, Nada Surf and The Decemberists. This is bolstered by a side program of entertaining lectures, discussion forums, after-show parties, record fairs, concert poster exhibitions and more.

On both days, concerts run from approximately 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.; they're followed directly by after-show parties that keep things going until 4 a.m. Tickets go for 69 euros on Friday and 75 euros on Saturday. A festival pass comes in at 129 euros. Online: rollingstone-park.

#### WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

#### Europe



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

The Oreo cheesecake at Cheesecake No. 122 is just one of many dessert selections at the Kaiserslautem, Germany, restaurant. Like its name suggests, it serves a variety of flavors of cheesecake but also offers many non-dessert choices from pizza and pasta to steak and salads.

#### By JENNIFER H. SVAN Stars and Stripes

we minutes after ordering, the plate of steaming-hot gnocchi was on the table. That was fast. Was it a microwave job? Considering that the menu at Cheese-cake No. 122 is 13 pages long, it would seem impossible that apron-wearing chefs were in the restaurant's kitchen, whipping up fresh potato dough. It could be homemade, as the menu states, but I suspect the dough spent some time in the freezer.

The saying, "jack of all trades, master of none," might apply to this Cheesecake restaurant, which, by the way, is not connected to the U.S.-chain Cheesecake Factory.

Like that Cheesecake, this Cheesecake serves

Like that Cheesecake, this Cheesecake serves cheesecake, but more on that later.

The menu at this Cheesecake was all over the food map, veering from burgers to pizza to steak to crepes. There were vegetarian and vegan selections and a list of daily specials. Each category was deeper than a Chicago-style pizza.

Even if you could quickly zero in on a theme because you were craving a burger, for instance, you'd still have to decide between nine varieties. Should you get a cheeseburger or a triple cheeseburger? A burger with bacon and barbecue sauce or one with salsa, corn and jalapenos? You could also go "Bollywood" and get the grilled chicken breast with cream cheese or skip the meat altogether and opt for a veggie patty made with quitnos

You could spend 15 minutes reading up on the pizza varieties, spilling over to a second page on the menu. There were the usual suspects, such as margherita and Hawaii, but also some stomach-churners with toppings that should probably not ever be on pizza. Case in point: "Pizza Mexico," with tomato, cheese, spicy ground meat, jalapenos, bell pepper cubes, corn and nachos. No thanks

Even the gnocchi required some decision-making: Gnocchi with gorgonzola, tomato cream or Bolognese sauce; or, what I went with, a sage butter cream sauce.

Turns out, sauce is a big part of the gnocchi. Mine was swimming in it.

I'm generally not a fan of too much sauce, but in this case, the combination of dry dough balls in a buttery sauce was quite good. Not the best gnocchi I've had in Kaiserslautern, but quite satisfactory.

Let's be honest, though. If you have a sweet tooth like me, you go to a restaurant with Cheesecake in its name for one thing — the cheesecake. On the day I visited, the cheesecake options

On the day I visited, the cheesecake options were white berry, banana chocolate, Oreo, Kinder or Bounty bar, or traditional German cheesecake.



Gnocchi swimming in sage butter is one of many pasta dishes on the menu.

#### CHEESECAKE NO. 122

Location: Mainzer Str. 122, 67657 Kaiserslautern

Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 10 p.m. Kitchen closes at 9 p.m. daily. Sunday and Monday, closed. Dress: Casual

Prices: Mid-range. Pizzas start at 8.90 euros (about \$10.17), while burgers range from 11.90 euros (\$13.90) for a plain burger to 13.90 euros (\$15.89) for a specialy burger. Information: Phone: (49) (0) 631 4141520; email: info@cheesseake122.de; website: www.cheesseake122.de

— Jennifer H. Svan

I ordered the Oreo. In presentation, it looked perfect, a single Oreo placed vertically on top of a field of Oreo crumbs. Unfortunately, my high expectations crumbled at first bite. Instead of the dense American-style cheesecake, it was a whipped-cheese version, less rich than its American counterpart. The strongest Oreo flavor came from the cooke itself and not the cake.

Despite the anticlimactic dessert experience, Cheesecake No. 122 has a lot going for it. The restaurant's walls are painted avocado green, and a combination of ample natural light and soft indoor lighting set a cheerful, relaxing ambiance.

My server was friendly, taking the time to translate each of the day's specials from German to English without me asking. The rest of the menu tome was in German and English, thankfully.

Though the Oreo cheesecake didn't knock my socks off, I'm intrigued by a cheesecake topped with mini Bounty bars. I'll probably go back.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com Twitter: @stripesktown

# Snoop Dogg's surprisingly solid tips for Thanksgiving

By Kate Krader Bloomberg

na Garten. The Butterball turkey hotline. Even the late, very great Anthony Bourdain. Those are some of the names that come to mind when you think of a Thanksgiving expert.

Snoop Dogg is not one of those names.

But in his recently released cookbook, "From Crook to Cook" (Chronicle Books), the erstwhile ranner entertainer and co-host of the Emmy-nominated series "Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party" on VH1 emerges as someone with strong opinions about the year's best eating holiday. His recipes are solid, and in some cases brilliant, superior to what's in a lot of cookbooks. ("He surprised me with his unique cooking techniques and recipes," says another Thanksgiving expert, Martha Stewart, in the book's intro.) Take, for example, the Ain't No Jive herbed turkey and gravy. It features an herb butter rubbed underneath the skin - a pro move - as well as gravy with a hit of orange juice.

Here, Snoop answers several all-important questions about his holiday feast. For his recipes, you'll have to buy the book. Until he has his own Thanksgiving hotline, it's as close as you'll get to having him in your kitchen.

"Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays," Snoop tells Bloomberg, "because it's a double-hitter — you got good food and you got good football on the same day. I got a game-day menu in my book with plenty of munchies you can make before the main event. The best are the Suited and Booted loaded nachos. So easy and cheesy. All you do is spread your favorite chips on a baking pan, load 'em up with toppings, and bake in the oven. One-pan slam."

For his nacho recipe, Snoop adds everything you could wish for on a sizzling platter of chips: Well-spiced ground beef, corn, black beans, Cheddar and Monterey Jack cheese, sour cream and smashed avocado. "If you really wanna get your chips dipped and whipped, don't just settle for some bland sauces," he says. He reconfigures the nachos into another unlikely T-day snack, Soft Touch tacos. Snoop makes them with a similar chili-spiced ground beef and a colorful mix of toppings.

#### OG Gin and Juice or the Remix?

"Everyone knows gin and juice is my drink of choice," Snoop says. "After the original comes the remix. After 25 years of mixing that Tanqueray with the OJ, it was time to put a fresh twist on the classic. We still add a splash of juice, only now we hit it with pineapple to give the whole thang a tropical vibe. You can do both OG and the Remix for TDay. Just set up some Tanqueray,

Ciroc, orange juice and pineapple juice and let the homies make what they want."

You'll find a recipe for both drinks in "From Crook to Cook." For the OG gin and juice: "Take some gin, take some gin, take some juice, mix it up. That's it." The remix uses pineapple-flavored vodka and pineapple juice.

#### The Ain't No Jive Turkey

"I always keep OJ in the fridge and oranges in my kitchen. Martha makes a lot of recipes with lemon, and it just made sense for me to use oranges since I love the flavor," Snoop admits. "And ooh-whee does it work for turkey." The rapper is an unofficial turkey expert. For years, he has given out birds to locals in Inglewood, Calif, in advance of Thanksgiving; people line up for hours.

"Tm always lookin' for ways to use all kinds of herbs. Don't they make everything better?" he continues. "I don't get down with no bland turkey, and unless you add plenty of herbs in a thick rich coat of butter, nobody is getting excited about that bird. It's the main event. It better have all that flavor."

#### Sweet Potato vs. Pumpkin Pie

"When I was making my cookbook I had to get sweet potato pie in there," says the rapper-cumcook. "These days everyone is into pumpkin spice, but I skip the pumpkin — sweet potato pie is a real 'hood staple and Broadus family favorite." [Pop-culture fact: Snoop was born Calvin Cordozar Broadus.] "A little orange makes the sweet potato flavor stronger, and that's what you're here for, right?"

#### Turn Up for T-Day

Says Snoop: "I love a good Turkey Day turn-up. Every year, I host a special Thanksgiving episode on my show, GGN. Everyone from T.I., Margaret Cho, Bishop 'Magic' Don Juan turns up, and we talk everything from politics to religion, always with a big plate of turkey, mashed potatoes and greens. With plenty of drinks and herbs of all types, ya dig? We always end up talking about what we're grateful for in this life."

#### Thanksgiving Leftover Favorite?

Snoop isn't one to choose. "Especially after a late-night session — all of them," he says.

If you've had enough of all the turkey, one of Snop's all-time favorite snacks is a fried bologna-and-cheese sandwich. "I had the bright idea of throwing that bologna in a frying pan. Fry that Oscar Mayer up with some cheese, and you're on your way to a bomb meal." He piles the bologna and cheese on toasted bread with yellow mustard, and sides in barbecue potato chips—"as many as you and your sandwich can handle."



By RALPH VARTABEDIAN Los Angeles Times

y son, Marc, and I had tromped through shin-deep snow for several hours, and by the time we reached the couldn't see more than 25 feet because of a whiteout.

Somewhere in front of us was a deep crater and the surrounding peaks of a volcanic rim we had hoped to reach. But as we stood on one of the highest peaks in the Armenian Caucasus Mountains, we were satisfied we'd made it this far.

For much of the past century, nobody would have considered the former Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic a hiking destination.

But a few decades of independence and a strengthening democratic government have given the little nation a growing reputation as an interesting, safe hiking place. We met hikers from France, England, Canada, Belgium and Australia in just a few days on the trails.

Smithsonian magazine earlier this year identified Armenia as one of the next world-class hiking destinations.

The nation's beautifully wooded Dilijan National Park resembles Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The plateaus of volcanic Mount Aragats look something like the Sierra Nevada's high country, with barren igneous rock, gravelly slopes and snow-covered peaks.

Lake Sevan is twice as large as Lake Tahoe and a thousand feet higher in elevation. Although its waters don't have the clarity that makes Tahoe so spectacular, you won't find a traffic jam around the lake's perimeter or dense neighborhoods of mansions.

What the country lacks in affluence is offset by the warmth of the people, whose







Main photo: The four Aragats peaks, surrounding the massive caldera of an extinct volcano, form the highest point in Armenia and remain snow covered through at least June. Top: The camp site near Kari Lake at about 10,000 feet elevation. Above: The Transcaucasian Trail runs from Georgia through Armenia, marked by small signs nailed to trees. Left: A roadside bakery near Geghard sells Armenian sweetbread.

PHOTOS BY RALPH VARTABEDIAN, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

identity is anchored to its long history. Yerevan, the capital, was founded in 782 B.C., decades before Rome. Between hikes, you can visit ancient temples and some of the oldest Christian churches in the world.

But anyone who frequents California's well-traveled mountains would find a few surprises and challenges in hiking or climbing in Armenia.

Ing in Armenia
You often won't find marked trailheads.
The weather will be unpredictable. The
flora will be foreign. You might end up driving your rental car across a boulder-strewn
mountain river to get near a trail. If you find
a topographic map, it will probably be written in Armenian — which doesn't use the
Latin alphabet.

Just how surprising traveling around Armenia could get dawned on me when Mara and I rented a car in early June in Yerevan, and the rental agent warned me that my California driver's license wasn't strictly

If I was stopped by police, he said, just offer money. How much, I asked? About \$10 would be more than enough. Now that's the kind of advice you don't get at a U.S. rental counter. Fortunately, it wasn't needed. Just to get to Armenia requires a long

Just to get to Armenia requires a long flight that takes you to a place that's 11 hours ahead of California. That's important in planning strenuous hiking, because it takes awhile to get over that day-to-night jet lag.

But the country rewards those who make the effort. It will be a liberating experience from the crowded trails, packed parking lots and scarce back-country permits in California. In fact, you won't need any permits in Armenia.

I had long searched for a good reason to visit Armenia. As I grew up in Detroit, my father often reminisced about growing up in the Caucasus Mountains in the early 20th century. Marc had just completed graduate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

#### FROM PAGE 30

school and had a one-week window to join me in Armenia. He spent a week surfing in Indonesia and flew west, and I flew east.

After a day of exploring Yerevan on foot, we planned for three or four days of hiking. On the way to Dilijan National Park, we stopped at the Sevanavank Monastery, two 1,100-year-old stone churches overlooking Sevan Lake.

We went on two hikes in Dilijan National Park, one to pleasant backcountry Gosh Lake, along the Transcaucasian Trail. or TCT. At the lake, we met a Canadian hiker who seemed lost. He joined us, and we gave him a ride back to the city of Dilijan.

A few days later, I met park superintendent Armen Abrahamyan at the park's headquarters just outside Dilijan. The park now has 124 miles of trails, about half of them on the TCT, he said. Some of them are Jeep roads, although we didn't encounter vehicle traffic on our hikes.

The TCT will eventually extend from Georgia through Armenia, covering 1,864 miles and connecting existing and future national parks.

The second hike took us to the ruins of the 11th century Jukhtak Monastery, deep in a forest. I imagined how people, isolated from the rest of the world, would hike to that mountaintop 1,000 years ago. It seemed such a far cry from driving to a church parking lot these days.

The main objective of our trip was Mount Aragats, the highest peak in the country, about an hour's drive east of Yerevan.

I found a crude digital topo graphic map of Aragats on the internet. I wasn't sure there was an actual trail, and we didn't have time to find our own route.

I quickly realized we would need a guide. The only problem was finding a good one.

I talked with Armenian travel agents, Armenian journalists and Armenian aid officials. I found hiking guides online and tried to email them. I talked with a couple of guys with the Armenian Hiking Society whom I'd met on the Sam Merrill Trail above Altadena, Calif. It wasn't until I got to Armenia

that things fell into place and I met Hovik Mizrakyan, a jewelry designer and strong hiker affiliated with FindArmenia.com. Marc and I camped the night before at sub-alpine Kari Lake. There were no fire pits, picnic tables, fee stations or infrastructure you'd expect when car camping. Mizrakyan would meet

us the next morning. We met a group of Belgians camping nearby, led by Nver Avetisyan, a friendly mountain guide. He drove the only Dodge Caravan we saw on our trip. ("I like American cars." he said.) He invited us into his dining tent for tea and coffee. We brought a bag of ripe cherries we had bought earlier and talked about the future of democracy in Armenia.

Our hiking trip barely scratched the surface of what Armenia's four national parks have to offer. I ran out of time before we could get to Arevik National Park along the southern border. Maybe someday I'll try again for Aragats North.

Even in the Sierra, you sometimes have to try more than once to reach a peak.

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#### Weekend: travel





Jim Dudla, who served as a paratrooper in Vietnam, makes his way down Kulaniapia Falls above Hilo on Hawaii Island, as

resort staff looks on. It is one of several activities offered at the resort.

# **Nature** nurture

Inn near Hilo, Hawaii, a last resort for some desperate to find peace, rest through time spent in the great outdoors

> By CATHARINE HAMM Los Angeles Times

f you arrive at this spot in Hilo, Hawaii, on a moonless night, you can hear the water before you can see it rushing to seek its lowest point, as water always does. At first, it sounds like a hose that's been left on, but as you try to track down the source, it begins to sound like a horrendous water main break.

Suddenly it appears seemingly out of nowhere: Kulaniapia Falls, not a public works disaster but an aquatic masterpiece that tumbles over itself on its 120-foot drop to the pool below, spilling 50 bathtubs' worth of water in a minute if it's not raining, about 10 times that much if it is, which it often is on the Hilo side of Hawaii Island.

For years, vegetation hid these falls. Once that greenery was cut away, the cascade became the centerpiece of and the soundtrack for the Inn at Kulaniapia Falls.

This is a different kind of resort, not the marble-bathed, Frette-linened, chilled-air kind of lodging you frequently find in the islands. Want pampering? No problem, but here it is nurture by nature. It's the gardens filled with bamboo and orchids, the early-morning sun glinting off Hilo Bay below, the feeling of being free from artifice as you stroll down a country lane lined with macadamia nut trees.

And always there is the water, a kind of liquid worry bead. For one occasional group of guests, that is part of the allure of this place, which is more than just a resort. For some of them, it is a

#### Bought sight unseen

In the early 1990s, Lenny Sutton bought the 22 acres sight unseen that are now home to the inn. "It had good 'mana," he said, using a term that often refers to an energy or power that can result

How the resort came to be what it is today is a

tale of a lot of hard work, a little bit of luck and a whole lot of, well, you decide what the word is once you know the story. Sutton, his wife, Jane, and their children

moved here because the place had, as they like to say in real estate, potential, but it took vision to see what that was. The falls were so overgrown that only the top

12 feet were visible. There were no buildings, only the land and the water - the big falls, three smaller falls and the stream into which they flow. The inn began its hospitality life as a four

room bed-and-breakfast. "We raised our kids there," Sutton said.

If hospitality is a calling — and he had been for years a Caribbean charter boat captain — it's also a 24/7 commitment, no weekends, no holidays. Christmas morning was never the bound-

#### Weekend: travel

#### **Pacific**





down-the-stairs-before-dawn Hallmark card for this family.

"I was always cooking breakfast for the guests," he said.

Today, the inn comprises the Residence (four rooms) and Harmony House (five rooms), Jade Cottage (sleeps two) and the Pagoda House (sleeps four and has a kitchen). There are glamping tents up the road at the 20-acre farm that can be booked through Airbnb (from \$89).

Breakfast is part of the package at the inn (fruit, breads, cold meats, cook-yourown waffles, juices, coffee) and can be eaten on the balcony of the Residence, where the falls could easily rock you back to sleep, if there weren't so many other things to do.

Those things are fairly recent additions.

In 2015, Sutton was retirement age and perhaps ready for a not-seven-day-a-week job, so he put the place on the market.

Enter Christophe Bisciglia, whose mile-a-minute mind had plowed mostly fertile land in the tech industry. Now he was ready for what he called a "legacy asset" that enabled him to be part of and contribute to a local and larger community. By chance, he stumbled on the inn. It wasn't quite what he thought he wanted. but when he saw Kulaniapia (said to mean "heavenly power"), he knew this was it.

He didn't want to buy the inn outright. Instead, he wanted to partner with Sutton as he learned a new industry. In the end, as it often does, life gave Sutton what he needed (a partner to ease his burdens), not what he thought he wanted.

#### **New adventures**

Bisciglia wanted to create new revenue streams by introducing adventures hikes in a nearby lava tube, stargazing, and rappelling and ziplining the falls for the guests.

To do so, he needed someone who could train a staff to guide the guests.

Enter Dave Black, a Maui resident and a Utah native. He had decades of outdoors experience as part of credentials that also included military service and serving as a correctional officer.

Black was interested, but his motivation wasn't money. He wanted to find a way

to honor his son Darby, a military veteran who served in Afghanistan and Iraq and suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder so severe that in 2015 he killed himself. Darby Black is

part of a deadly pattern. In 2010,

about 22 vets a



day killed themselves, according to an estimate in a 2012 Department of Veterans Affairs study. Some scientists and medical personnel dispute the numbers, but no one thus far has disputed the problem.

That is how Brian, Lee, Christian and Jim, under the leadership of Dave Black, came to be at the Inn at Kulaniapia in August, the second group of a still-developing program for vets scarred by war. Airfare, lodging, meals and activities are provided.

This is no free lunch. Slaying the dragons of memory takes as much grit as the military service that created them - and maybe more

#### Lava tube hike

The vets would do the same things as the other guests, but in their own group. They let me join them on a lava tube hike at Kazumura Cave in Pahoa, about 25 miles from the inn. It's on private property, but Sutton is friends with the owner. who has granted permission for the inn's

Ethan Hodek, then an inn staffer, led the group through a small opening into the cave, which was formed at least 500 years ago. Some of the mile or so hike is along smooth lava ("pahoehoe") and some sharn ("aa").

Sometimes we needed to crouch, and sometimes the ceiling was 30 feet tall. The path was wide and then it was narrow. . One embankment required a skitter up a rope - skitter for the guys, grappling and groaning for the generally desk-bound reporter

We stopped at one point, turned off our flashlights and helmet lamps, and held our hands in front of our faces. At least, I think they were in front of our faces. It was the blackest black I've ever experienced. Was this the dark night of the soul? If so, where was the illumination that is supposed to follow?

Not too much farther, it turned out. There was light — not at the end of the tunnel, which goes on for more than 40 miles — but at a "skylight," an opening through which roots from ohia trees dripped and, based on bones found, animals apparently fell.

Hodek and Black had urged us to stay hydrated. I was more focused on staying upright. I took Brian's arm, afraid I would fall, petrified I would embarrass myself.

With help, I made it up the final ladder and out. I spent the rest of the day swaddled in ice packs.

The next morning, I ran into Jim, who was a paratrooper in Vietnam and has two artificial hips, two bad knees and two fused ankles. He noticed I was limping and asked why I hadn't turned back. I said I couldn't lose face, not in front of this

He told me, not unkindly, that I should



Left: Guests may swim in the pond at the base of Kulaniapia Falls, a 120-foot-tall cascade about three miles from Hilo.

Above: This Buddha in the gardens at the Inn at Kulaniapia Falls was airlifted by helicopter and put in place by the river.

PHOTOS BY CATHARINE HAMM, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

never let anyone's opinion determine my course of action. Of course not, I said, but it was also my job.

He smiled slightly and nodded.

#### Journeys back

I took a safer position on the breakfast terrace as the group prepared to rappel the falls. (Few guests have failed to complete the rappel, and one of those was an octogenarian, Bisciglia told me.) These guys weren't going to chicken out. One by one they made their way down, as though they did so every day. Part 2 was to have been ziplining

from the falls to the pond, but the forecast called for thunderstorms. Mission aborted. The rain started coming down in sheets.

"At home," one British guest remarked, we call this liquid sunshine.

The liquid sunshine turned into a flash flood, so I hunkered down until it passed, then joined the guys that evening to hear the stories of what had brought them here.

For two hours, they told of broken relationships, drinking, drugs, always depression, often despair and usually enormous confusion. Sometimes they had to walk away from the conversation. Sometimes they gutted it out and told what ripped their hearts out and still messed with their minds.

Most of them had lost friends, some of whom died in combat; others by their own hand.

The next day on the farm, they planted trees to honor their fallen comrades. Holes were dug, and words were summoned to remember their friends.

Never have I heard "S.O.B." spoken as tenderly.

Earth patted back into place, rain now gently falling, the men turned and walked away to begin a new chapter in their journevs back



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#### WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

#### **Pacific**



Dana Chula offers a wide selection of traditional Indian fare, such as its hearty and flavorful Creamy Butter Chicken (above), which pairs well with the restaurant's freshly baked naan (right).



# **After Hours: Japan**

By Theron Godbold Stars and Stripes

alking into Dana Chula Family Indian Restaurant, a quaint family-run restaurant located near Yokota Air Base in Western Tokyo, the first thing I noticed wasn't the food, but the smell. That came as no big surprise, though, Dana Chula specializes in Indian cuisine. which relies heavily on a variety of pungent and unique spices - but the fragrant smell that lingered in the restaurant's dining room was a pleasant one, and not at all overpowering. In fact, it made my stomach start to growl. I was ready to eat.

The friendly waitstaff gave me plenty of time to review the menu — which I was happy to find was available in both English and Japanese, allowing me to order with ease. For the budget-conscious, Dana Chula offers two main options for lunch: a single curry meal for 980 yen (about \$8.60), and a two-curry meal for 1,080 yen. Both set lunches also come with a salad, as well as all-you-can-eat rice and naan, a type of Indian flatbread used for dipping into

The restaurant offers a wide selection of traditional Indian fare, such as mutton curry (750 ven) and chicken tikka (300 ven for three pieces), as well as some Japanese-inspired dishes. All curries allow diners to choose their preferred spice level - making Dana Chula a perfect introduction for anyone new to Indian cuisine.

After some deliberation, I chose the single curry meal with Creamy Butter Chicken curry and garlic naan

Shortly after ordering, my waiter brought over the set lunch salad, which contained lettuce, carrot and shredded cabbage topped with a ranch-like dressing. While the salad was small, the flavor was decent and a nice way to begin my meal.

Looking around the restaurant. I noticed that a diverse mix of American servicemembers and Japanese locals had begun to fill the empty tables. What I assumed was a hole-inthe-wall Indian joint was actually a popular lunch spot for those who live and work in the neighborhood.

When I arrived around 11 a.m., the restaurant was fairly empty — so diners in a rush should plan on showing up a bit early, as I had, to beat the lunchtime crowd.

After polishing off my salad, the main



PHOTOS BY THERON GODBOLD/Stars and Strines

Kharel Krishna, owner of Dana Chula Family Indian Restaurant near Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, waits on customers Nov. 8 before the lunch rush begins.

course arrived. As soon as the aroma of garlic and curry hit my nostrils, my mouth began to water. Steam rose off the food in wispy clouds.

I ripped off a small piece of the freshly baked naan, which was warm to the touch and covered in crispy garlic flakes, and dipped it directly into the curry. The creamy richness of the curry immediately brought a smile to my face, as it reminded me of a squash soup my stepmother used to make for me when I was a kid — except this curry had a bit more kick from the Indian spices. The chicken used inside the curry was moist and flavorful, but not too plentiful.

Five minutes after my food arrived I was surprised and slightly disappointed to discover that I had finished my entire meal. Still, as I finished what was left of my water, I was satisfied despite the small portion size.

Thanks to the courteous waitstaff and wellprepared food, Dana Chula made for a pleasant and unique dining experience close to base and I'm sure this will now become a regular lunchtime destination whenever I'm in the mood for an affordable, filling meal,

godbold.theron@stripes.com

#### Sweet potato pie beats pumpkin

BY BONNIE S. BENWICK The Washington Post

A press-in, gluten-free crust, a lightly seasoned filling and the option of a crunchy ginger topping are just a few of the reasons you might like this very easy pie.

The topping can cover any cracks that might develop on the surface of the pie.

Make Ahead: The sweet potatoes can be baked, peeled and refrigerated several days in advance. The pie can be baked up to two days in advance; store without its garnish, cover and keen at room temperature

#### SWEET POTATO PIE WITH MACAROON CRUST

Servings: 8 to 10; makes one

9-inch pie Ingredients

For the crust: 1 cup sliced almonds (skin-on)

1/2 cup shredded sweetened coconut 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) un-

salted butter, melted

1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt For the filling:

2 medium sweet potatoes, poked a few times with a knife and each wrapped in aluminum

foil (about 18 ounces total) 3/4 cup canned coconut milk (full fat; shaken well) 3 large eggs 3/4 cup light brown sugar

½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg 1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt

For the optional garnish: Unsweetened flaked coconut 1/4 cup crystallized ginger,

thinly sliced Directions

For the crust: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Combine the almonds, shredded coconut, melted butter and salt in a food processor; pulse until coarsely textured. Transfer to a 9-inch pie plate and press in evenly on the bottom and up the sides. Bake (middle rack) for about 12 minutes, or just until golden (the crust will darken further when the pie bakes).

For the filling: Increase the oven temperature to 400 degrees. Roast the wrapped potatoes (middle rack) for a total of 45 minutes, or until they feel soft.

Reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees.

Unwrap the potatoes and dis-card the skins. Place the sweet potato flesh in the food processor and pulse until smooth. Let them sit for a few minutes, then add the coconut milk, eggs, brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt; puree until smooth. Pour into the cooled pie crust. Bake (middle rack) for about 45 minutes, or until the center of the pie is just set.

While the pie cools, make the optional topping: Toast the flaked coconut in a small dry skillet over medium-low heat for several minutes, until lightly browned in spots, shaking the pan to avoid scorching. Let cool, then toss together with the crystallized ginger in a bowl. Use the mixture to decoratively top

#### DANA CHULA Location: 3-11, 6 Chome-14-2

Inadaira, Musashimurayama-shi, Tokyo-to 208-0023 Directions: From Yokota Air Base, turn left out of the East

Gate. Make a right at the stoplight next to the nearby 7-Eleven convenience store, then make another left after the first stoplight. Dana Chula is located on the left side of the road a few meters past the intersection.

Hours: Open daily from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Cost: Lunch sets start at 980 yen (about \$8.60) for a single curry meal, which includes naan. Dress: Casual

Information: 042-520-8143 or online at danachula.weebly.com

- Theron Godbold

#### WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE



Screenshot from Lily Whispers ASMR

Lily Whispers, 24, of Pittsburgh is a so-called ASMRtist whose Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response — or ASMR — videos attempt to give online viewers relaxing "tingles." [Viewers] "use it to focus, like winding down for bed, or when they're having anxiety attacks," she says.

# 'ASMRtists': The online avant-garde

'Pleasurably disturbing' video genre may be edgy, unnerving, even feminist — but is it art?

By KAREN HELLER
The Washington Post

hey feature slime, crackling plastic, whispering, scratching, brushing and the thrumming of exquisitely groomed fingernails. They are, depending on whom you talk to, either the antidote to anxiety or a wellspring of annoyance.

Might they also be art?

Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response videos

— ASMR to the millions of viewers who devour them
online — have been described as therapy, sleep aids
and brief vacations to Tingleville. Also, a chance to
watch strangers doing bizarre stuff. They are about as
old as this decade — unless you hark back to the dulcet
tones of Bob Ross and "The Joy of Painting," which
some older "tingleheads" do.

ASMR videos are designed to produce sensations that originate in the head and scalp and radiate throughout the body. The name sounds pilfered from a medical journal, but it's basically Stuff That Makes You Tingle — the catch in a husky voice, a knife drawn through sand, a cat licking her paw, whatever sensuous "trigger," as ASMR folks call it, works for you.

Lately, the ASMR movement seems to be entering its commercialization phase. ASMR videos have been monetized, celebritized, and co-opted to sell



Photos courtesy of Lily Whispers, top, and Glitter Slimes, botton

Lily Whispers massages fabric, top, and Glitter Slimes kneads slime, bottom, in their online ASMR videos, which draw millions of viewers.

Ikea furniture, Dove chocolate and a McDonald's Quarter Pounder, which seems possibly the least ASMR thing on the planet.

But early this year, Nato Thompson, artistic director of the nomadic nonprofit Philadelphia Contemporary, watched his 13-year-old niece engrossed in ASMR videos. The work featured a stylish woman smooshing her face into bread — the conceit, apparently, that viewers who crave warm doughiness against their flesh will derive vicarious joy watching her. But to Thompson, who has viewed plenty of edgy video installations in noted gallery settings, it prompted the thought: "This looks

#### It's extraordinarily sensual. It's totally useless in a good way.

Nato Thompson

artistic director, Philadelphia Contemporary

awfully close to art to me."

Hooked, he watched thousands of videos. Most, he found, were "pleasurably disturbing."

ASMR "is performative. It's extraordinarily sensual. It's totally useless in a good way." Thompson says. "They're quick. They're meditative. From the whispering to the slurping to the sliming to the folding. This is entirely tactile work to this entire generation that's entirely screenal."

And possibly feminist. "What's nice is the ASMR world is very female," Thompson says, when historically, the art world has been decidedly not. Festival patrons were mostly female and preteen, perhaps due to the presence of Glitter Slimes, an ASMR star in the subsenre of Slime.

"Îlove the visuals of slime," says Slimes, aka Nicolette Waltzer, of Orange County, N.Y. An art critic might see in her work echoes of Takashi Murakami's saturated color and penchant for play, or Matthew Barney's fondness for wax and petroleum jelly ooze. That's not necessarily how she regards her creations. "Ilove the sound, the poking noises. A lot of people tell me they do it for relaxation and stress relief, that my videos calm them down."

"People use it for background music," explains Lily Whispers, 24, of Pittsburgh. "ASMR creates an intimate, sensual type of atmosphere." WEEKEND: MUSIC

# A fresh look at 'The Beatles'



The Beatles, from left, Paul McCartney, John Lennon, Ringo Starr and George Harrison, in early 1968. They worked through the summer of that year on their ninth album, "The Beatles," which came to be known as the "White Album." The double album has received an exhaustive remastering and repackaging for its 50th anniversary.

#### Son of legendary producer wades into depths of the 'White Album'

BY MARK KENNEDY Associated Press

ardcore fans of the Beatles like to pore over every detail of the band and endlessly dissect their songs. Then there's Giles Martin, who manages to time travel to meet the Fab Four.

Martin is the son of legendary Beatles producer George Martin, and he's lately been returning to the treasure trove of original recording sessions to remix key albums by John, Paul, George and Ringo

"It's really nerve-wracking because it's a legacy of music which is really important," the soft-spoken Martin said. "What I do is make sure I provide the fans - and people who don't even know the Beatles with music that's worth listening to and is interesting."

Martin last year remixed "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," and this year he has resurfaced with a fascinating and exhaustive look at "The Beatles," better known as the "White Album," which contains such classics as "Back in the U.S.S.R.," "Blackbird" and "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da." It coincides with celebrations of the album's 50th birthday.

Besides punchier, remixed versions of the 30 songs on the original double album, the anniversary package includes 27 acoustic demos of material the Beatles made at Harrison's house before going into the studio and 50 studio outtakes, including the unreleased "Not Guilty." a studio jam of "Blue Moon' and early versions of "Let It Be," "Lady Madonna" and "Across the Universe."

which would appear on other albums

Martin was tapped by the surviving Beatles and the wives of Harrison and Lennon to rummage around in Abbey Road Studios in London and re-listen to everything, including abandoned songs and rehearsals.

That meant going through 107 takes of "Sexy Sadie," dozens of versions of both "I'm So Tired" and "Long, Long, Long" and a 13-minute "Helter Skelter." It meant hearing the Beatles discuss songs, joke and even order lunch. (You can hear Harrison at one point from the studio order a "cheese, lettuce, Marmite sandwich.")

Martin couldn't help using a Beatles reference to explain what his goals are: "I'm sort of trying to peel back the layers - the glass onion, if you like. I peel back the layers so you get to hear what I can hear at Abbey Road."

Among the gems in the box set is an

unrecorded Lennon song called "Child of Nature" that later morphed into his solo hit "Jealous Guy" and also a very cool "Good Night" stripped of the orchestrations it got on the "White Album." You can hear "Happiness Is a Warm Gun" start out life as quite gentle before ending up on the "White Album" like a template for Frank Zappa.

The Beatles worked through the summer of 1968, often in exhausting all-night sessions. Martin says the reason for multiple takes for many songs could be because the band had largely stopped performing live.

"I think the most revealing thing for me working on the 'White Album' is just how creative they were, all of the time," said Martin. "It's almost like the studio couldn't handle the level of demand that they wanted to do and the amount of songs they wanted to record."

'I'm sort of trying to peel

Martin's father was heavily involved in the Beatles' prior album, "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," and was even lauded as the architect of their sound. But the Fab Four came together for the recording of the "White Album" in the summer of 1968 with a different goal in mind.

"They didn't want an architect. They wanted to build an album from the bricks up and without any real idea about what it was going to be," said Martin. "They indulged themselves because they knew that each member of the band would make the song better.

William Moylan, a professor of music and sound recording technology at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, said the recording of the "White Album" found the members of the Beatles at a crossroads.

"It's really where the Beatles are exploring their own individuality and they're still working off the collective. They're coming out of 'Sgt. Pepper's' and they're coming out of 'Magical Mystery Tour' and they're coming out of the psychedelia," Moylan said. "They're branching out, into popular music, into musical theater, back to rock, even Tin Pan Alley-type pieces.

The accepted wisdom when it comes to the "White Album" is that it was a rocky time for the band, which was disintegrating. Starr quit and walked out for an 11day period. Critics have called the record a mess — a brilliant mess, of course

with each member often delivering solo

But, like a polite Moses coming down from the mountain with the original tablets, Martin disagrees. He believes some of those interpretations to be exaggerated. He hears the Fab Four working together even on songs long considered to be done by only one Beatle

original producer, George Martin, left



**CONTINUED ON PAGE 37** 

#### WEEKEND: MUSIC



#### **Rosanne Cash**

She Remembers Everything (Rlue Note)

Rosanne Cash brings in a fair share of collaborators on her latest album, both for songwriting and singing. T Bone Burnett, Elvis Costello, Kris Kristofferson, Sam Phillips, Lera Lynn and Colin Meloy of the Decemberists all make their presence felt.

There's no mistaking whose show it is. "She Remembers Everything" is the sort of lovely, literate work we've come to expect from Cash for more than 30 years. Her last three albums have largely looked back, at musical and family history, and this is a return to a more personal songwriting style.

The project was bicoastal for Cash, who recorded half at home in New York with husband John Leventhal, her usual producer, and half in Oregon with producer Tucker Martine. Leventhal's production can often seem too mannered, so a listener appreciates the kick of someone new. Truth is, there's more consistency than one would expect with a divided creative process.

In fact, the best song here ("Not Many Miles to Go"), produced by Martine, is a love song to Leventhal. As the title suggests, it's about a couple that knows it has more days behind them than ahead. Yet it's celebratory, not morbid, and rocks hard.

Other highlights include "8 Gods of Harlem," another team effort with Costello and Kristofferson, two co-writing efforts with Burnett done originally for HBO's "True Detective," most particularly the album-opening "The Only Thing Worth Fighting For," and the title cut, done with Phillips.

The 2000s haven't been easy for Cash, who lost her famous father, her mother and stepmother, underwent brain surgery and wondered if she'd ever sing again after getting polyps on her vocal cords. It's a blessing she came out of it with her abilities and ambition intact.

David Bauder
 Associated Press



#### The Revivalists

Take Good Care (Loma Vista Recordings)

The New Orleans-based The Revivalists are back and bigger than ever — literally — with their fourth full-length album. They've recruited a new member — they're up to eight now, if you're counting — and offer a bumper crop of 14 new songs.

The first half of "Take Good Care" is mostly promising stuff, featuring the band's exciting mix of jazz-funk grooves, blues rock and warm melodies. The second half falls off a cliff. They should have quit when they were ahead.

For anyone not a die-hard Rev-Head, the jam-band octet made a name for themselves with the sweet and funky tune "Wish I Knew You," which found major success on the alternative charts in 2016 and last year. Rolling Stone magazine named them one of "10 Bands You Need to Know."

For seven or so tracks on "Take Good Care," the Revivalists prove they could be the real deal, especially with the slowburning opener "Otherside of Paradise," the euphoric "All My Friends" and the clever rocker "Change," all showing variety and expert musicianship. But by the time you get to the end, their sound has gotten flattened-out, generic and boring.

"Future" sounds like a lazy Strokes rip-off and "Some People Say" is a warmed-over Chris Stapleton song, "Celebration" and "When I'm With You" are sagging, needy songs that ape the E Street Band. There's inconsistency and tediousness all over the album. How did this happen? One reason could be because.

One reason count or because, for the first time, the band handed over producing duties to three mer. Andrew Dawson, Dave Bassett and Dave Cobb. At best, their fingerprints are all over the album. At worst, their fingers are all over the throat of the band.

It looks like the Revivalists didn't take the advice of their own title — "Take Good Care." — Mark Kennedy

Mark Kennedy
 Associated Press

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"The revealing thing for me is you go back and listen to the tapes and what we have on the tapes is a cohesive unit playing together and working on songs together," says Martin, who was born a year after the "White Album" was released.

"Listen to the sessions — they were very warm. And that's the surprising thing. I think we thought the 'White Album' was this disparate, angry record — and it has certainly elements of that — but, in essence, the four of them made an album together they wanted to make." That sounds about right, said

Moylan, who has been a record producer, engineer, composer and teacher for 25 years: "I've really always had a sense that be Beatles were professional musicians as well as being friends. When they were performing, any personal friction evaporated because it was all about the music."

# Imagine Dragons deliver again — but differently

Do Imagine Dragons ever sleep? Not apparently.

Less than a year and a half after releasing the doubleplatinum album "Evolve" and crisscrossing the globe on a 100-date tour, the band is back with a dozen new songs. Whew

"Origins" is supposed to be a sister companion to last year's monster "Evolve," and it's an intriguing follow-up, offering more textures and sonic experiments. If "Evolve" was the band stalking around as an arena powerhouse, "Origins" is the quirky little sister, making cool stuff in her bedroom.

Don't let the first single, "Natural," fool you. That slice of bombastic, fist-pumping bravado seems to indicate more of the same on "Origins," but they drift into other areas, like the blissed-out summer jam "Cool Out" that could be on a DNCE allum, and the gloriously anarchic, disruptive "Digital," which plays with dub step and chops itself into pieces.

The Dragons again reteam with producers Alex da Kid and Mattman & Robin — folks



#### **Imagine Dragons**

Origins (Interscope/KIDinaKORNER)

who have delivered some of the band's biggest hits — but, to everyone's credit, not doing

more of the same.

"Bullet in a Gun" is fresh
with unpredictable electronic
flourishes, and the club-ready
"Only" has interesting temp
shifts and unexpected layered
parts, as if the Dragons are
fighting monotony this time.
"West Coast" is basically a
folky tune that could happily sit
in a Lumineers album — how's
that for predictable?

Lyrically, "Origins" dwells on modern-day alienation and the band's own uncomfortable relationship with its fame. On "Zero," lead singer Dan Reynolds reminds everyone he once felt empty and unreal. On the moody "Bullet in a Gun," he notes sadly: "To make a name you pay the price" and later the words "sellout, sellout!"

The Dragons also explore a determinanizing digital world, like in their plea for "Love," where Reynolds notes everyone tunes out shocking news: "We put on our headphones." Elsewhere, he screams: "I'm not a part of your machine / I am the machine."

The new album extends the band's flirtation with Charles Darwin — taking its name from "On the Origin of Species" and coming right after "Evolve." In some ways, the names should be reversed: "Origins" shows their sound really evolving.

Mark Kennedy
 Associated Press





#### Lil Peep

Call Me When You're Sober, Vol. 2 (Autnmy/Access/Columbia)

Nearly everything about "Call Me When You're Sober, Vol. 2", the posthumous album from rapper Lil Peep, is sad.

The bulk of the album shows his edgier side as Peep was building "emo rap," a combination of stark hip-hop beats and the emo lyrics and guitar riffs of the early Aughts Long Island music scene, from bands like Taking Back Sunday and Brand New. "Runaway," with its sludgy bass riffs and the phrasing of Adam Lazzara, is a more-polished version of the songs from his early albums like "Crybaby," released on SoundCloud.

"Call Me When You're Sober, Vol. 2" will likely stand as a melancholy monument to Lil Peep's career — an introduction to the mainstream that is also a farewell.

— Glenn Gamboa

#### Weekend: books



Michelle Obama chronicles her childhood, marriage, life in the public eye in 'Becoming'



By Krissah Thompson The Washington Post

s Michelle Obama's highly anticipated memoir "Becoming" arrives, it's clear that the former first lady is occupying a space in the culture beyond politics. With an arena book tour featuring A-list special guests, she seems to exist in the middle ground between two icons she calls friends, Oprah Winfrey and Beyonce Knowles-Carter. Her approach is short of Winfrey's full-on confessional style but goes further than the guarded intimacy of Knowles-Carter's art and performances.

Her book walks a similar line. It's revealing, right down to the glossy cover photo in a casual white top one shoulder exposed, eyes bright. (Spoiler: It's not the kind of shirt a soon-to-be political candidate wears.) But Obama, who was famously guarded as first lady, still values her privacy — even as she offers frank opinions about Donald Trump and discloses past fertility struggles.

"I don't think anybody will be necessarily prepared to read a memoir like this — especially coming from a first lady," said Shonda Rhimes, the television producer, who read an advance copy of Obama's book.

The first-lady memoir is a rite of passage, but Obama's is different by virtue of her very identity. "Becoming" takes her historic status as the first black woman to serve as first lady and melds it deftly into the American narrative. She writes of the common aspects of her story and - as the only White House resident to count an enslaved great-great-grandfather as an ancestor — of its singular sweep. In the 426-page book, Obama lays out her compli

cated relationship with the political world that made her famous. But her memoir is not a Washington read full of gossip and political score-settling — though she does lay bare her deep, quaking disdain for Trump, who she believes put her family's safety at risk with his vehement promotion of the false birther

"The whole [birther] thing was crazy and mean-spirited, of course, its underlying bigotry and xenophobia hardly concealed. But it was also dangerous, deliberately meant to stir up the wingnuts and kooks," she writes. "What if someone with an unstable mind loaded a gun and drove to Washington? What if that person went looking for our girls? Donald Trump, with his loud and reckless innuendos, was putting my family's safety at risk. And for this I'd never forgive him."

It is the most direct and personal language she's used about Trump.

Even those who have followed Obama's life closely in the decade and a half since her husband was a relatively unknown Illinois politician will come away with fresh understanding of how she sees the world and the people and experiences that shaped her.

She divides the memoir

into three parts: Becoming University.

Me, Becoming Us, Becoming More. The first section is a deep, often sociological exploration of Chicago and the people and institutions there. Its textured discus sion of gentrification, public education, race and class are reminders that Obama majored in sociology and minored in African-American studies at Princeton

The second section, Becoming Us, is a romp through her romance with Barack Obama, starting

a family with him and her search for work that she loved. It begins with words that have never before been written by a first lady about her man: "As soon as I allowed myself to feel anything for Barack, the feelings came — a toppling blast of lust, gratitude, fulfillment, wonder.

The third section, Becoming More, traverses their life as public figures. It contains her own view of her legacy and accomplishments as first lady and what it felt like to live under the intense scrutiny she faced. As she campaigned for her husband's re-election in 2012, she writes that she felt "haunted" by the ways she'd been criticized and by people who had made assumptions about her based on the color of her skin.

She thought then about what she owed and to whom: "I carried a history with me, and it wasn't that of presidents or first ladies. I'd never related to the story of John Quincy Adams the way I did to that of Sojourner Truth

From the preface, Obama promises a story that

covers the full contour of her life - growing up in a covers the full contour of her life — growing up in a "cramped apartment on the South Side of Chicago" to living in "a place with more stairs that I can count." From "being held up as the most powerful woman in the world" to being "taken down as an 'angry black woman.

She returns to a discussion of what she calls the angry black woman "trap" that dogged her: "I was female, black and strong, which to certain people ... translated only to 'angry.' It was another damaging cliche, one that's been forever used to sweep minority women to the perimeter of every room ... I was now starting to actually feel a bit angry, which then made me feel worse, as if I were fulfilling some prophecy laid out for me by the haters."

Obama is most revelatory when writing about her 30s; how she continued to grieve the deaths of a dear friend and her beloved father; how she dealt with her own version of the chewed-over "Can I have it all?" dilemma working mothers face

She also shares intimate details for the first time, for instance, that she and her husband had trouble getting pregnant, suffered a miscarriage, and that both daughters were conceived through in vitro fertilization. And that she did a great deal of this while her husband was away serving in the state legislature, leaving her to administer the shots that are a part of that process herself.

Inevitably, her memoir will be compared to those of other first ladies. Her focus on owning your own unique story sets her book apart, but it is similar to Laura Bush's in one respect. Both women most deeply excavate the part of their life before the presidency enters.

"I was very surprised, pleasantly surprised, by the level of candor and the level at which she opened herself up," said Rhimes, who has read memoirs by other first ladies and created a fictional one on her show "Scandal." "I love the honesty and the humor and the beauty with which she addressed the romance of her marriage and the tribulations of her marriage and motherhood, and all of those things that we as women all can relate to.'

In her revealing new memoir, "Becoming," Michelle Obama candidly shares her story.

CHARLES SYKES, INVISION/AF

#### WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

#### NEW ON DVD

"Detectorists": The series sounds like it would be painfully boring. Two buddies spend their days roaming the British countryside with their metal detectors in hopes of finding historical treasure. The BBC comedy is a great example of how a production's subject can be mundane, but the presentation is enjoyable because of great writing and acting.

Mackenzie Crook ("Game of Thrones"). who also wrote and directed the series, stars with Emmy-nominated actor Toby Jones ("Captain America") as the two oddball metal-detecting enthusiasts. Both actors are charming, funny and talented, best observed in scenes when they are together.

This is not a show about making huge discoveries, but about friendship and passion for the hunt.

The five-disc set features the 18 episodes of three series plus bonus behind-the-scenes featurettes, a Series 2 Christmas special, cast interviews and a photo gallery



Sonequa Martin-Green as First Officer Michael Burnham on "Star Trek: Discovery." Season One is now on DVD.

"Star Trek: Discovery: Season One": The only way to see the series before the release on DVD and Blu-ray has been via the CBS All Access streaming service. That made it a good lure for fans hungry for anything new in the Star Trek universe, but little more. This first season falls short of the excitement, thrill of exploration and examination of the human and alien conditions other series in the franchise have presented. "Discovery" is a dark journey more

focused on how one Starfleet officer tries to understand all things alien rather than making this a compelling trip to new worlds.

The four-disc Blu-ray and DVD collections feature all 15 episodes plus additional special features.
Also available on DVD:

"The Meg": Large sea creature stands in

the way of a rescue mission to save the crew of a deep-sea submersible. "Mile 22": Mark Wahlberg stars in this

story of an elite government group assigned to transport a valuable package to safety.

"Hidden": A detective begins investigating a young woman's suspicious drowning after she returns home to help her sisters care for their ailing father.
"How Long Will I Love You": A man and

woman living in the same apartment nearly 20 years apart wake one day to find their timelines have merged.

"The Children Act": A British High Court judge (Emma Thompson) must rule on a case concerning a teenage boy whose religious convictions prevent him from accept-

ing blood transfusions. "The Crown: Season Two": Queen Elizabeth II deals with her changing role on the

global stage from 1956 to 1964. "Juliet, Naked": Annie (Rose Byrne) develops an unlikely transatlantic romance with a washed-up singer-songwriter.

"Final Score": Ex-soldier (Dave Bautista) wages a one-man war to save his niece who

has been abducted by terrorists.

"Narcos: Season 3": Cocaine and the war on drugs move closer to home as the Cali

cartel expands its operations. - Rick Bentley/Tribune News Service



### Actor Jeff Hephner brings conflict to extraterrestrial drama

By LUAINE LEE Trihune News Service

ctor Jeff Hephner can't explain what he does for a living. When he must fill out a form defining his profession, he says. 'Most of the time I put 'sole proprietor of a business' because I live outside of Detroit in Michigan, so the idea of being an actor is foreign to a lot of people. You can't live here; you have to live in Hollywood.' So that opens the door to conversations that I can't ever finish," he shrugs. "One of the great things about living where I do is that most people don't ask '

His parents asked, and were shocked when he confided he wanted to be an actor. Hephner had been an athlete all through high school and even earned a basketball scholarship to college.

"I come from a small town, I was a jock. My dad was a football coach. We didn't have open 'theater' conversations in my home," he says.
"It was my secret. So it wasn't until I

grew wings and fell out of the nest that I felt strong enough to do it on my own."

Known for "Chicago Med," "Chicago

Fire" and "Boss," Hephner, 43, stars in the second season of NatGeo's "Mars," which premieres Saturday on AFN-Spectrum As a new arrival on the Red

Planet, Hephner plays what he calls "the conflict." "It's this guy you think is going to come in. You are on the side of Mars and of science, and you see that guy who's going to come in and mess it up

... He is the archetype, the stereotype, the representation of capitalist interests, of industrialism, or profiteering ... You pour that into a colony that exists on Mars, and then you have conflict," he

He's no stranger to conflict. During Hephner's last year of college he severely tore his calf muscle, essentially ending his basketball career and resuscitating his acting dreams. "So I have about seven months of rehabilitation And it was then I quit school and said, 'I'm going to go do this!'

'It was the first moment that I had deep self-reflection, as deep as you can at 21 or 22. And I made the decision my days of (being) a ballplayer are over. The days of being knock-around were over. And I wanted to really chase something I was passionate about And I have My parents thought I was insane. They were terrified."

Because the family had vacationed in Jacksonville, Fla., Hephner headed there, where he had sighted a couple of small theaters. They were so small that he was the only guy to show up for auditions and easily won the male roles

From there, he trekked to New York as clueless as ever. "I drove a 1996 red Ford Ranger to Michigan; I dropped it off at my dad's farm and took a train to New York, Two days later I was in New York City. I was scared. I don't think I went outside for three days. I didn't know a soul; had absolutely no idea," he says, grinning.

He stumbled on a nearby site where they were casting commercials. "I walked by and there was a line for an open casting for a commercial, and I got in line, a couple of days in. I finally got to where you sign yourself in, and they said, 'Do you have a headshot?' 'I don't have a headshot.' 'Who's your agent?' 'I don't have an agent.' 'What're you doing here?' 'I dunno. I stood in line.

He only came close to making one commercial. "'OK, you're at a beach but you're going to have this spicy sandwich and you're going to get so hot, you're going to take your shirt off.' They gave me a paper plate, and I'm in the car driving and 'Oh, you're soooo hot, take your shirt off.' I felt like such a jacka--. I said, 'I'm never going to a commercial audition again.' And I never have."

That ricocheted Hephner right back. "I just kept standing in line, knocking on doors, talking to strangers - all the things you're not supposed to do. And it leads you to the next thing," he says.

Jeff Hephner plays Commander Kurt Hurrelle as Season 2 of "Mars" premieres Saturday on AFN-Spectrum.

#### WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS



block out all the doctors scurrying about. I made loud roaring sounds like a tiger to drown out all the scary medical noise. It didn't help. After a few moments, his nurse gently tapped me

on the shoulder. "I wonder if you might instead try singing him a gentle lullaby?" she asked.
When I think back on this moment from more than 10 years ago, I can still vividly recall the feeling of helplessness. I remember wanting to do something to make my son better. And I remember that my first intuition — my excited attempt to distract with a book — turned out not to be the best choice. Indeed, the lullaby worked much better. Why hadn't I thought of trying that?

Although my son was having seizures, the distress I felt as a parent in this situation has come to inform my work as a pediatric pain psychologist. In the counterintuitive world of chronic pain where I work, I often feel like the nurse in the ICU when I gently suggest to families that they try a new approach.

It's not easy. I'm working with kids who are in constant pain and with parents who are panicking over their child's suffering. I know how they feel.

My first goal is to help parents understand that psychological treatments are among the best tools to reduce chronic pain, regardless of what is causing the pain. Research shows that the impact of many different types of pain — including headache, abdominal pain, nerve pain and musculoskeletal pain

— can be lessened with interventions that are rooted in psychology. While pain itself is not just a psychological problem, scientific studies spanning more than two decades consistently find that kids recover better when they are engaged in a multidisciplinary recovery plan that includes evidence-based psychological care.

To understand this, parents and kids need education about how the nervous system works: namely, that all pain sensation is actually processed in the brain, not in the tissues of the body. This means we can use brain-based strategies to "dial down" pain sensitivity, much like you might use a dimmer on a lamp to turn down a light. Understanding this fundamental concept opens the doors to teaching a variety of evidence-based, mind-body strategies — such as deep breathing, guided imagery and mindfulness

 that reduce pain as well as pain-related difficulties, such as poor sleep and anxiety. In addition to learning how to dial down pain sensitivity, psychologically based strategies are directed toward modifying how we think about pain.

It's fairly easy to understand that ongoing pain is a scary experience for kids, but most people are surprised to learn that this innate fear of pain actually amplifies the pain signal leading to more physical discomfort. The antidote to this lies in retraining the brain to think about pain differently. For example, when kids shift from thinking, "This pain is unbearable," to thinking, "Today is a tough day," they almost immediately have less fear, and in turn begin to feel better physically.

Another target of psychological care, the structured behavioral approach to help kids return to activity, can also be confusing for children and parents, at least initially. As an early step in treatment, kids are often encouraged to get back to their daily routines even when pain is present. Some worry this could exacerbate pain. Our mind and body, however, are equipped with the capacity to rewire and adapt; through successive exposures to typical activity, we can often retrain the brain and body to move without fear— and eventually without pain.

Families often ask me how this array of child-centered psychology skills fit together in a pain recovery plan. To understand this, consider one of the most common hurdles that kids with pain must tackle: getting caught up in school. It's common for a child with pain to fall behind in school. Getting back on track can be difficult. A pain psychologist can intervene by teaching a child mind-body relaxation skills to reduce pain sensitivity, advocating for supportive schoolbased accommodations, developing a stepwise plan for increased school activity (such as attendance or work completion), and monitoring progress by assessing pain triggers and alleviating factors along the way.

Notably, the psychology of pediatric pain also extends directly to parents. Though chronic pain affects 1 in 5 children, parents are seldom taught how to help manage symptoms. For example, when parents routinely ask a child with chronic pain the simple question, "How is your pain today" or even, "How are you feeling" they are inadvertently increasing a child's focus on pain and this too can amplify the sensation of pain. Intended to be warm, supportive and productive, the habit of checking in about pain many times throughout the day is one of the first things I advise parents to ston.

the first things I advise parents to stop.
Unfortunately, a family can find it tricky to access the targeted psychological intervention for pediatric chronic pain management, collectively included in

a type of psychotherapy called cognitive behavioral therapy or CBT. There aren't enough pediatric pain psychologists to go around, there can be insurance barriers and there are often long waits for service.

So, I began providing one-day CBT workshops for teens with pain and their parents. I had three simple goals:

 Increase access to care for children and parents
 Help families gain a deeper understanding of how chronic pain cycles can be reversed.

Empower kids and parents in the recovery process by teaching some of the evidence-based CBT skills that can help to reduce pain and improve function.

Additionally, within these group-based workshops, I wanted teens and parents to recognize that they were not alone in their struggle. Connecting to others who have a shared experience and learning from peers who have successfully returned to their full lives after dealing with chronic pain are essential for instilling hope and promoting engagement with these evidence-based skills. Now in their seventh year, these pain-management workshops have been replicated by more than a dozen children's hospitals in the United States and Canada and have served as a first step in treatment for many families who have a child with Chronic pain.

I recently met a 9-year-old girl who had pain for four months in her wrist. From a functioning standpoint, she was doing pretty well, and our team doctor didn't have much to offer. Still, her parents were concerned and they turned to me. "She seems so sensitive to pain. We're not sure how to help," they said.

In that instant, I recalled my feelings in the TCU with my agitated son. I remember how grateful I was to learn how to best help and know that all parents desperately need this kind of support. When I started to sing that gentle lullaby to my son, he almost immediately began to relax. And seeing that he was calm, I was able to relax a bit, to

I wasn't focused on what this meant to me as a pediatric psychologist at the time, but this memory serves to remind me still: parents and children are truly in this together. While the treatment for chronic pediatric pain is best informed by a multi-disciplinary approach — often including medications and physical therapy — it's essential that parents and kids learn the evidence-based interventions that psychology offers.

Coakley is a pediatric pain psychologist at Boston Children's Hospital and an assistant professor at Harvard Medical

#### Weekend: Family



#### How parents can ease teen heartbreak before it happens

By ERINNE MAGEE

Special to The Washington Post

hen I think back to my first heartbreak of world-ending proportions at age 17, it's not the feeling of getting dumped that stayed with me through the years, but my mom's reaction to the breakup.

It went something along the lines of: "Erinne, you're 17. You'll never remember this. He's a jerk. Move

At the time, I wasn't sure how to process her reaction. Was she right? Was I overreacting as I hyperventilated to love songs on the radio? The sadness I felt was not validated by someone I had always trusted, and it made me not want to confide in my mother at all.

As I parent my daughter, who at 9 is hopefully nowhere near dating age, I know I have to get realistic about how to handle such conversations when the time does come.

One of my greatest fears is she'll lose her desire to open up to me; in fact, I already feel a shift. She's inherited my independent spirit. which, coupled with the hormones and keen awareness of being a fourth-grader, means Mom doesn't get the marathon explanations of her day or the goings-on with friends.

When she does come to me with a problem, I find myself getting lost somewhere between wanting to teach resiliency but also wanting my daughter to feel whatever emotions she's going through.

So how will I talk her through her first heartbreak? I sought the advice of a few experts.

Start with friendships: "Once kids get into their elementary and tween years, their most important relationships transition from parent-child to peer-to-peer," says clinical psychologist Maria Shifrin. who notes that friendships are an opportunity for parents to plant the seed of how children should value relationships in general.

At this age, children still don't know how to react to rejection or letdown, nor do they know how to kindly "reject" others. It's just as important to show them how to cope with loss as it is to offer conversation tactics that can be useful when they need to be the one to let someone down. Children will find themselves on both sides of this scenario, so use their disappointment in this moment to say something like, "How could Sally have nicely told you she didn't want to play today?

Having an open discussion about what good friendships look like and when it's time to let go lays a foun-

It's easier to brush aside a child's emotions and instead jump in and offer solutions to the problem, but taking the time to listen reminds them that their thoughts are just as important as yours.

dation for how to handle relationshins in general.

Don't minimize emotions: Take the opportunity to observe your child's emotions, name them and praise positive forms of coping. says Loretta Brady, psychotherapist and professor of psychology at St. Anselm College.

It's easier to brush aside a child's emotions and instead jump in and offer solutions to the problem, but taking the time to listen reminds them that their thoughts are just as important as yours. It can also be helpful to offer a creative outlet like drawing, coloring or music so the child can see there are positive ways to cope.

'We need to assure them that what they are feeling is valid and real and that we understand," Shifrin said. "If we are quick to minimize their pain, they will be much less likely to come to us later.'

Make the time: Watching anyone especially your own child, feel sadness, anger or confusion is difficult.

There are times when parents want to fast-forward through the emotion because it makes us uncomfortable.

But if we are constantly zipping through uncomfortable conversations, we are teaching our kids to do the same. "These moments are teaching moments," says marriage and family therapist Christi Garner. "A parent who blows off this vulnerable conversation is giving their children the message that their feelings aren't important.

Parents and children who spend time together outside their daily routines are more likely to have important conversations because there is another focus aside from the challenging topic, Garner says. Whether it's a walk, bike ride or even a video game, that one-on-one or family time allows for comfortable and natural conversations, away from the daily rush.

Talk about your own struggles: "Hearing about how parents themselves overcame early heartbreak can help kids know that there is hope after these disappointments," says Brian Cassmassi, a psychiatrist in Los Angeles.

I remember when I first mustered up the courage to tell my daughter more about my divorce from her father. It was something I dreaded but knew I had to do because the questions were present in her mind. I put off this conversation because I thought I was protecting her, just like my mom probably thought she was doing for me when she resorted to tough love over my breakup. But what I was really doing was allowing my daughter to internalize these questions, filling in the blanks as her young mind saw fit. When I finally told her, she seemed grateful, almost proud, that I would confide

Cassmassi said that parents can also use characters from books and television to open the dialogue with their children. Ultimately, you want to let them know that no topic is

"We don't have all the answers, but we can help kids navigate the world themselves with uncondi-tional support," said Shifrin, "With open eyes and open ears."

#### THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



#### The less appealing aspects of the season

ovember always finds me waxing poetic about the flavor of just-harvested fruits, the earthy aroma of fallen leaves, the nip of imminent winter and the brilliant hues of flora and sky. But like everything else in life, this lovely season has a

Nowhere is this more evident than on my own body. Soon after the leaves change color, I begin my own trans-

It starts with one of those cool, clear, sunny fall days. I slip into my favorite jeans, throw some chili in the Crock-Pot and spend the day outdoors apple-picking raking leaves or window shopping while sipping a latte. Not wanting to miss a good selfie opportunity, I don cool reflective shades, wrap a bohemian scarf around my neck and brush my hair to one side. Smile, click and post

I zoom in on the photo and notice a deep crease between my brows from squinting and a raccoon-like pattern of windburn on my cheeks. My lips are severely chapped and the cold-weather pallor of my skin makes my teeth look pumpkin spiced. And my hair has the stringy, dehydrated appearance of a witch's straw broom.

Later, I find that my shins have the scaly appearance of alligator hide, and my torso is so crepe-like, I release a flurry of flakes when taking off my shirt. I immediately slather myself in moisturizer, but it's too late. My body has begun to winterize itself, and any effort to delay the process is sadly futile.

Soon, a tiny crack forms in the hardening skin at the corner of my fingernail. For some reason, these minuscule cold-weather lesions are disproportionately painful. One small bump of the affected finger sends deep stabbing pains up my arm, and the agony is only slightly mitigated by Band-Aids and ointment.

To make matters worse, my joints begin to ache. Like those cows that lay down when rain is coming, cold weather brings out the bovine in me. Shortly after slurping my first sweet sip of cider, my joints suddenly become a reliable indicator of barometric pressure.

"Lisa's limping today - must be a cold front coming through!"

And of course, the autumnal air, with its aroma of fermenting fruits and fall flowers, wreaks havoc on my sinuses. Thanks to the seasonal combo of pollen and mold, I inevitably catch a head cold. At first, I believe that it will be just the sympathy-garnering event I need to compel Francis to bring me soup in bed. But instead, it devolves into nothing more than a "sinus situation." I learn to live with a constant tickle just behind my uvula, requiring me to do that obnoxious, sucking throat scratch that keeps Francis up at night. I hack up unmentionable phlegmy things in the bathroom sink. I walk around in a sinus-pressure fog, wondering why my nasal passages are abundantly lubricated while the rest of my body is shriveling like a dried apple.

In an attempt to reverse this most unfortunate seasonal change in my body, I adjust my bedtime ritual. On my nightstand, I stack vitamins, anti-inflammatories, a foam roller for my joints, a callus exfoliator that looks like a parmesan cheese grater, anti-wrinkle cream, moisturizing lip salve and teeth-whitening strips. While sitting on the side of the bed, I apply all these products, finishing off by circling a stick of cocoa balm around my mouth, fore-

"What the hell are you doing over there?" Francis asks, looking up from his book.

"Whatever it takes," I respond. Despite my Herculean efforts, by the time winter arrives next month, my face will probably resemble one of those collapsing jack-o'-lanterns you see rotting on front porches, my hair we be so crunchy it's ready to be baled, my skin will be flakier than pie crust, my joints will be as stiff as week-old road kill, and I'll have a case of inces-

sant post-nasal drip.

On the upside, the birds won't dare perch on our windowsills thanks to my uncanny resemblance to a scare-

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

#### WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

#### NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

53\_

#### **ESCAPE ROOM** BY ERIC BERLIN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

room, with four articles you 'll need hidden inside This crossword represents an escape After you complete the grid, follow the directions at 41-, 70- and 99-Across to find what to do next. Working correctly will lead you to a four-word phrase with a total of 12 letters.

#### 1 Shakespearean father

- of three
- 5 "I agree!"
- 9 Enjoys the sun 14 Pants material
- 19 Approximately
- 20 Sycophant
- 21 Earth tone
- 22 Movie with a shootout 70 What to do with the items referenced in at high noon, maybe 41-Across 74 Natural-
- 23 \_\_\_\_ Major 24 Band bookings
- 25 Outside the city
- 26 Any member of Abba
- 27 Automotive debut of 1957
- 29 Some univ. hirees 31 Turkish inn
- 33 Horror writer Peter
- 35 Stole, in slang
- 37 Cold treat
- 41 What's needed in order to escape
- 44 Sandwich loaf
- 45 Pitcher Hershiser
- 99 After following the 47 Indie rocker instructions at with the 2009 70-Across, how to No. 3 album "Middle escape this puzzle
- Cyclone" 102 Not as much 50 Not doing well 105 Ratings pioneer
- 52 A snap 106 Edmonton athletes

- 107 "Fine with me" \_\_ jure (law 109 German name
- 55 Tobacconist Sherman 110 Uncool one

67 Charcuterie stock

light display

to the next thing

77 Billy \_\_\_\_ Williams

prior to 1917

80 One of a couple

81 Neon and others

83 Apollo, to Zeus

to the Bard

desperate effort

97 Prefix on some first-

had it!"

aid products

87 Kind of battery

94 Tickle the \_\_

84 Offshore

86 Possesses

91 Final

98 "

75 Move smoothly

76 Great

78 Like Russia

69 Lycées, e.g.

- 56 Virtuous ones 111Unconventional 58 N.Y.C. subway org.
- 114 James of the West 59 Words of denial 116 'Just foolin'
- 63 Round fig. 118 Algerian port 66 A little, musically
  - 121 Get together 122 "Give it \_\_\_\_\_!"

component, often

- 123 Verdi soprano 124 Grp. founded by 12 countries
- 125 Luau, basically 126 Brothers'
- name in R &B. 127 Symbol of fire prevention
- 128 Vehicle that requires no fuel

#### DOWN 1 Name one

- can "skip to" 2 Goof
- 3 Confidently said 4 Pre-GPS staple
- 5 Subject with variables 6 Daily\_
- (British paper) 7 Part of some physicals: Abbr
- 8 Attribute of many political ads
- 9 Soup with a red color 10 Prefix
- with pressure 11 React with fear or delight

- 12 Ralph and Alice, on old TV 13 Actress Ward
- 14 Trig function
- 15 Native Iowan 16 Citizen of: Suffix
- 17 Actor Beatty 18 It's mined
- all mined! 28 Common middle
- name for girls 30 Constantly fidgeting,
- 32 Game with 42 territory cards 33 Slovenly type
- 34 Prefix with byte 35 "Famous
- (slogan on Idaho license plates) 36 Pause
- 38 Went on and on 39 Yiddish cries
- 40 Second of April? 42 Wretched smell
- 43 "Hey! That hurts!" 48 Kind of Hollywood romance
- 49 Literary scholars debate what's in it 51 Getting
- to the point? 54 Solution to a maze
- 57 Specks 58 They might
- drop down 60 Almost forever 61 Nothing more than
- 62 Latin 101 word
- 63 Petty disagreement 64 Also

112 121

107

102

- 65 Beleaguers 67 Horrible headache 68 Anesthesiologist's
- concern 71 "The Bridge at Narni" painter
- 72 Internet sensation 73 Nut whose name sounds
- like a sneeze 79 Shock, in a way
- 81 Flowering evergreen
- 82 Bucks 85 Administrants of

122

126

- corporal punishment 86 "Can you explain that
- further? 88 Requiring intellect
- 89 It might end in a ZIP code: Abbr.
- 90 Ph.D.
- requirement: Abbr.
- 91 Tiny "tiny" 92 Forum greeting 93 Former Yankee

123

- nickname 95 Soft and smooth
- 112 It has a big deck 96 Happy wintertime news for schoolkids 115 Toledo-to-Columbus
- 100 Semi fuel
- 101 Golfer Michelle
- 103 Kinds 104 "Awesome!"
- 117 A Kardashian
  - 119 Dined 120 Silent approval

124

128

of Ventura

110 Mythical queen

of Carthage

111 Your and my

113 Aunt: Sp.

dir

108 California city north

#### GUNSTON STREET







"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com. Online: gunstonstreet.com.

#### RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE

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# **Stapleton cleans up at CMAs**

#### Singer takes 4 awards; Urban wins entertainer of the year for first time since '05

By Mesfin Fekadu Associated Press

Chris Stapleton won the most trophies at the Country Music Association Awards and had the show's best performance, almost capping a perfect night.

That was until Keith Urban surprisingly won the top prize — entertainer of the year — moments before the three-hour show wrapped Wednesday night.

Urban's actress-wife, Nicole Kidman, was in tears as the singer walked onstage to collect the

award at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville. "Baby girl, I love you so much," he said. "I'm shocked beyond shocked."

Urban, who last won entertainer of the year in 2005, beat out Stapleton, Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean and Kenny Chesney for the prize

"I wish my dad was alive to see this," the Australian performer said.

Stapleton, however, cleaned house, winning four awards including male vocalist, song and single of the year as both a performer and pro-

"I want to thank my kids, who put up with me being gone quite a bit and not getting to be as a good daddy that I would always like to be," said the father of four and soon to be five since his wife, singer-songwriter Morgane Stapleton, is pregnant

Stapleton also turned in the performance of the night: His supergroup featuring iconic singer Mavis Staples, Maren Morris, Marty Stuart and Mavis Staples, March Morris, Marty Stuart and his wife gave a soulful and powerful performance of "Friendship," a song made famous by Mavis Staples' late father, Pop Staples. They then per-formed "I'll Take You There," jamming onstage along with a choir. They earned a standing ovation from the audience.



#### **CMA** winners

Entertainer of the year Keith Urban (above) Female vocalist of the year Carrie Underwood Male vocalist of the year Chris Stapleton New artist of the year Luke Combs Album of the year 'Golden Hour." Kacev Musgraves Song of the year "Broken Halos," Chris Stapleton Single of the year "Broken Halos," Chris Stapleton Vocal duo of the year Brothers Osborne Vocal group of the year Old Dominion Musical event of the year "Everything's Gonna Be Alright," David Lee Murphy and Kenny Chesney Music video of the year "Marry Me," Thomas Rhett Musician of the year Mac McAnally (guitar)

From The Associated Press

Carrie Underwood worked triple-duty as cohost, performer and nominee. She was teary-eyed when she won female vocalist of the year.

"Thank you, God. I have been blessed with so much in my life," she said. "Thank you family. Thank you country music. Thank you country music family. ... It's all about family around

Kacey Musgraves, the only woman nominated for album of the year, won the prize for "Golden Hour.' "This is really really crazy timing — 10 years

ago today I moved to Nashville. That's so crazy,"

"I'm so proud of it," she said of the pop-leaning country album, which was inspired by Sade, the Bee Gees and others. "It's inspired by this beautiful universe, and all of you, and mostly love.



Karen Fairchild of Little Big Town, right, embraces Kacey Musgraves, who won album of the year for "Golden Hour."

#### Lennon's killer savs he feels more shame every year

The man who gunned down John Lennon in 1980 says he feels "more and more shame" every year for his crime.

Mark David Chapman told a parole board in August about his remorse during his 10th unsuccessful attempt to win release. A transcript of the hearing was released Thursday by New York prison officials.

Chapman, 63, is serving 20 years to life in the Wende Correctional Facility in Alden, N.Y. He shot and killed the former Beatle outside his Manhattan apartment on Dec. 8, 1980.

Chapman told parole board members that Lennon was "incredible" to him earlier that day when he autographed an album. Chapman says he thinks about that every day.

The state Board of Parole denied Chapman's release in Au-

#### Nunez's novel wins **National Book Award**

Sigrid Nunez's "The Friend," a meditative novel about grief, books and, not least, a Great Dane named Apollo, has won the National Book Award for fiction.

Jeffrey C. Stewart's "The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke" received the nonfiction award Wednesday night, and Elizabeth Acevedo's "The Poet X" was cited for young people's literature. The poetry prize went to Justin Philip Reed for "Indecency" and the translation award to Yoko Tawada's "The Emissary," translated from the Japanese by Margaret Mitsutani

Winners in the five competitive categories each receive \$10.000.

#### **Band is Latin Grammys'** Person of the Year

Mexican rock band Mana became the first group ever to be honored as the Latin Recording Academy's Person of the Year Wednesday, when its four members were recognized during a star-studded tribute concert for their creative accomplishments and philanthropic efforts. Lead vocalist Fher Olvera, drummer Alex Gonzalez, guitarist Sergio Vallin and bass player Juan Calleros received a crystal trophy before artists, industry leaders and others in an event the day before the Latin Grammy Awards ceremony in Las Vegas.

Previous recipients of the honor include Shakira, Ricky Martin, Carlos Santana, Miguel Bose and Placido Domingo.

#### Other news

■ Idris Elba's daughter has been chosen as the Golden Globe Ambassador to assist with the glitzy awards ceremony. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Wednesday that 16year-old Isan Elba will assume the ambassador title for the 76th annual Golden Globes Awards in January

From The Associated Press

#### NATION



ILIANO RODRIGUEZ MEGA/AP

Mark Stoeckle throws a bucket into New York's East River in August. Scientists say scooping a bottle of water or a sample of soil can be enough to detect the genetic material of endangered or elusive species.

### Genetic material found in environment helps track past and elusive wildlife

By EMILIANO RODRIGUEZ MEGA Associated Press

NEW YORK — On a scorching summer day, Mark Stoeckle threw a bucket into the murky waters of New York's East River to fill up three small plastic bottles.

The biologist hopes the water he collected contains the genetic trail of the river's diverse life including all of its fish — and of course, the occasional rat.

"We've cleaned up the East River significantly, but we're still dumping a lot of stuff," said Stoeckle, of Rockefeller University. "This will give us a better idea of whether fish are recovering or

He doesn't have to catch the slippery fish himself — a dangerous task, given the river's rocky bottom and strong currents. He just needs to look for the tiny bits of DNA they leave behind to track them.

Animals lose hair, scales and feathers as they move. They also discard skin cells and waste. All of those leave traces of genetic material that can be detected hours, weeks or even millennia later.

Scientists say analyzing the DNA floating in waterways or hiding in soil, which they call environmental DNA, or eDNA, promises to help in managing and protecting biodiversity. The tactic has become increasingly popular within the past few years and already has provided clues of ancient mammoths in Siberia, early warnings of frog die-offs in California and evidence of elusive sawfish in Mexico.

For Sam Chew Chin, a fish



PROVIDED BY OCEANOR VINIENTER

Marine biologist Ramon Bonfil collects water from the Chetumal Bay in Quintana Roo, Mexico, in September 2016. For more than three years, Bonfil has been sampling Mexican waters to try to find the elusive and highly endangered sawfish.

ecologist at York College in New York, the DNA sampling reminds him of childhood shows he loved such as "Star Trek."

"Whenever they'd find a new planet, they would scan it for life," he said. "Detecting environmental DNA is kind of the closest we come to being able to do that. It's pretty neat."

Chew Chin said he used to be a "muddy-boots-and-bloody-desk biologist." Studying fish meant capturing them and eventually killing them. Now, he searches for whales off Long Island or fish in the Hudson River by testing water — an advance that has made his job faster and cheaper.

It wasn't always like that. No-

body really cared about eDNA a decade ago, said Danish geneticist Eske Willerslev, who pioneered the technique.

He had been traveling to Siberia to sample permafrost. The frozen soil was so cold that he thought ancient genetic material could have remained intact throughout the years.

In 2002, with a handful of permafrost samples the size of sugar cubes, he was able to identify the genetic material of bison, horses and many different plants that lived hundreds of thousands of years ago. He also found the preserved DNA of mammoth

Environmental DNA "helps us reach the inaccessible." said Will-



SAAID HERNANDEZ OSORIO/AP

A fisherman holds a smalltooth sawfish he accidentally caught in Barra de Cazones, Veracruz, Mexico, in January 2016. It was the last live specimen reported.

erslev from the Natural History Museum of Denmark, adding that this approach will play a key role in scientists' quest to understand nature.

Examples of that are appearing in other fields, in which eDNA has changed how researchers think about conservation.

When Colleen Kamoroff spent the summer collecting water in 2015 from the lakes in California's Sierra Nevada, she saw a healthy group of native mountain yellow-

legged frogs hopping around.
One month later, they were all dying. The culprit: a microorganism called chytrid fungus, which has caused the decline of about 200 amphibian species around

the world. Curious as to whether the frogs could have been saved if she had seen early signs, Kamoroff, a wildlife biologist who works for Yosemite National Park in California, started looking for chytrid fungus DNA in the water she had sampled. She was surprised to

"Maybe if we knew they were infected at that point, we could have been more prepared. We could have started treating them" with medication, she said.

If a species is reduced to the verge of extinction, protecting the area where animals live or breeding them in captivity sometimes can help rescue it. It's been done before. But knowing where those last survivors hide is a common headache for conservationists.

Marine biologist Ramon Bonfil has spent more than three years looking for the last sawfish of Mexico, where tropical waters once teemed with the elusive, strange-looking rays. Now, they're nowhere to be found. The last specimen was caught accidentally in 2016. Other than that, no one has seen a live sawfish for almost a decade.

Gill nets, drones and fishermen all have failed to snare or spot

Bonfil, however, discovered sawfish DNA in three water samples he took two years ago in the state of Veracruz. It's a weak signal, which could mean there aren't many creatures swimming around. But it's recent.

"The key is knowing where they are. Until we find them, we won't be able to protect them,"

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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher Lt. Col. Sean Klimek, Europe commander Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander Harry Eley, Europe Business Operations

#### **EDITORIAL**

Terry Leonard, Editor leonard.terry@stripes.com

Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor reid.robert@stripes.com

Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content croley.tina@stripes.com

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation moores.sean@stripes.com

Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital gromelski.joe@stripes.com

#### **BUREAU STAFF**

#### Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief slavin.erik@stripes.com +49(0)631.3615.9350: DSN (314)583.9350

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief kidd aaron@strings com +81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com (+1)(202)761.0908; DSN (312)763.0908 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News bowers.brian@stripes.com

#### CIRCULATION

#### Mideast DSN (314)583.9111

XSSCirculation@strines.com

ervices@strines.com +49(0)631.3615.9111; DSN (314)583.9111

#### Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com +81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)229.3171

#### CONTACT US

#### Washington

tel: (+1)202.761.0900: DSN (312)763.0900: 633 3rd Street NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC

Reader letters

Additional contacts

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## Rohingya must have say in our fate

By Mohammed Sheikh Anwar Special To The Washington Post

y now, the world is well aware of the horrors experienced by Myanmar's Rohingya minority over the past two years. Starting on Aug. 25, 2017, the Myanmar military unleashed a campaign of terror against the Rohingya in the country's western Rakhine state, compelling virtually the entire community to flee. Since then, more than 700,000 Rohingya have sought refuge in neighboring Bangladesh.

This week, according to an agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar, the refugees are supposed to start going back. The problem: No one has ever asked us, the Rohingya, what we want. Once again our fate is being determined over our heads without the slightest reference to our own desires. This must stop.

In reality, the so-called repatriation plan is nothing but a scheme designed to whitewash the Myanmar military's crimes and to help it escape accountability. Under pressure from the international community, the Myanmar government is trying to show its eagerness to take refugees back from Bangladesh — but without fulfilling our demands for equal rights and security.

Myanmar is highly unlikely to return the refugees to their homes. Most Rohingya villages were burned down by the Myanmar military during its campaign of genocidal violence. For that reason, those who return are apparently to be resettled in internment camps. Some observers worry this is tied to Chinese-backed economic projects that have been planned on the emptied Rohingva lands in the region.

Unsurprisingly, virtually no Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh or anywhere else are willing to go back to Myanmar and live in these concentration camps. The Myanmar government has tricked some into believing that life in the camps will be temporary, until they can be allowed to return to their villages once they are rebuilt. The government spreads this false hope through collaborators (who are sometimes Robingya themselves) as well as through some international agencies who act as brokers for the Myanmar government and aid agencies seeking to gain contracts in Rakhine state. Both the Rohingya and the international community have succumbed to such trickery many times before. The problem is compounded by the lack of independent

media access to the areas concerned. If the refugees are sent back, the crisis will fade away from the international spot-



Rohingya Muslims use their cellphones Wednesday on a hill overlooking Balukhali refugee camp in Bangladesh. Bangladesh authorities said they are ready to begin repatri-ating some of the more than 700,000 Rohingya Muslims who have fled from army-led violence in Myanmar since last year, but refugees said they fear for their safety.

light. And this will allow the familiar cycle

of violence and injustice to begin again. The Rohingva should return to Myanmar only once our conditions have been fulfilled. Our demands are straightforward. The government must restore our citizenship and our status as an indigenous group - a status that will ensure us equal rights. Returnees from Bangladesh, as well as those who have been internally displaced in Rakhine state since June 2012, should be resettled only in their original villages. The resettled areas should be provided with international protection to ensure that the perpetrators, including the Myanmar military, are never again able to commit such crimes against us. There are, after all, no guarantees that Bangladesh will open its borders to save Rohingya lives next time around.

In the meantime, the international community must end the culture of impunity by bringing the perpetrators - namely the Myanmar military and responsible government officials - to justice. It should follow the recommendations of the U.N. Human Rights Council's fact-finding mission on Myanmar and criminally investigate and charge them with crimes against humanity and genocide.

My family knows of what I speak. On Sept. 12, 2017, the Myanmar military and Rakhine extremists attacked my village in southern Maungdaw Township and burned the whole village down, forcing my elderly parents and others in the family to flee to Bangladesh.

Sadly, there is nothing new about these atrocities. On Dec. 26, 1951, the London Times reported that approximately 250,000 Arakanese Muslims (Rohingya) fled from Burma (as Myanmar was then known) into neighboring East Bengal (now Bangladesh) to escape violence. Since the late 1970s, successive regimes have pursued a policy of slow-burning genocide against the Rohingva. Violence against us has been perpetrated under different pretexts for the past four decades - each time resulting in large-scale refugee flows into Bangladesh.

On Sept. 1, 2017, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the Myanmar army's commander in chief, described the clearing of the Rohingva as "unfinished business" from World War II, referring to a period during the war when ethnic Rakhine and Burmese Buddhists who sided with the advancing Japanese forces clashed with the Muslim Rohingya, who supported the retreating British. The general's statement shows the deep roots of the Myanmar government's policies of extermination of the Rohingva.

It is crucial that the Rohingya people receive international protection to prevent a repetition of the cycle of violence. As the history of the past 40 years has taught us, official promises in Myanmar provide no guarantees of security or survival, let alone equal rights.

Mohammed Sheikh Anwar is a Rohingya activist and journalist.

#### Vatican is stalling efforts to fight sexual abuse

The Los Angeles Times editorial

he U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops had been expected this week to embrace new measures to prevent and punish sexual abuse by members of the clergy, including an unprecedented code of conduct for the bishops themselves. It didn't happen. At the last minute, the hishons' plans were

out on hold at the direction of the Vatican. Officials in Rome said they wanted the U.S. bishops to postpone any action until after a meeting of bishops from around the world that Pope Francis has scheduled for February.

This demoralizing delay - which Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, of Galveston-Houston, the conference president, called a "bump in the road" — is the latest sign that the pope and his advisers have a blind spot when it comes to the need for decisive action

in response to clerical abuse and cover-ups. And it contradicts what is supposed to be a theme of Francis' papacy: a recognition that some decisions in the church should be left to local or national clerical leaders.

It was, after all, the American bishops who took the lead in adopting a charter that obliges dioceses in this country to report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor to public authorities. That policy has made a difference, but it failed to adequately address wrongdoing by bishops - not only those who engage in misconduct themselves but those who fail to deal decisively with predatory priests under their authority.

That omission would have been addressed by the proposed code of conduct that was due to be adopted at the bishops' General Assembly this week in Baltimore. The bishops conference was contemplating an additional reform that also has been put on hold; creating a commission of lay people to review complaints against bishops. That proposal appears to have offended Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the pope's representative to the United States.

Yet it's clear that the bishops have a credibility problem. This summer a grand jury in Pennsylvania released a report documenting decades of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy in that state and faulting hishons for covering up the abuse. The report followed the revelation that Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, a former archbishop of Washington, had been suspended from the ministry after an investigation found credible allegations that he sexually abused a teenager decades ago.

On Monday DiNardo told his fellow bishops that "to exempt ourselves from these high standards of accountability is unacceptable and cannot stand." Those admirable words would have carried more weight if the Vatican had allowed the bishops to follow

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#### Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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#### ACROSS

- 1 Sound booster
- 4 Stolen
- 7 Incursion
- 12 Wish otherwise
- 13 Clean air org. 14 Public persona
- 15 "- Poetica"
- 16 City in Kentucky
- 18 Cave mammal
- 19 Gets ready,
- briefly
- 22 Red beet
- 23 Prejudice
- 27 Switch positions
- 31 Sky blue
- 35 City in
- Massachusetts
- 37 Feathery wrap 38 Corp. kingpins
- 39 Tours season
- 45 Antlered animals
- 47 Gun lobby org.
- 48 City in Texas
- 53 Sci-fi visitor
- 54 Half of bi-
- 55 Sugary suffix
- 56 Macadamized
- 58 "Of course"

#### DOWN

1 Bedouins 2 Wall painting

4 Lend a hand

5 Verdi works

certainties

8 Texter's "Wow!"

7 Flippers

9 Squealer

10 Previously

17 Apple tablet

21 Dessert wines

24 Mineral suffix

11 Longing

23 Side road

show

28 Opposite

F

R Α

A C

6 One of Franklin's

- 3 Green sauce
  - 32 Orange Muppet
    - 33 Mil. morale
    - booster

30 Big fuss

31 "GMA" network

- 36 Trawler gear
- 37 "Shoo!"
- 40 Ryan's
- daughter
- 42 "Have fun!"
- 43 Got up
- 44 Abhors
- 45 Fax
- 46 Peevish fit
- 48 Opening
- 25 MSN alternative 49 Pie - mode
- 26 NBC weekend 50 Tyler of
  - "Jersey Girl"
  - 51 Victory sign

  - Answer to Previous Puzzle

    - SOAP PESO

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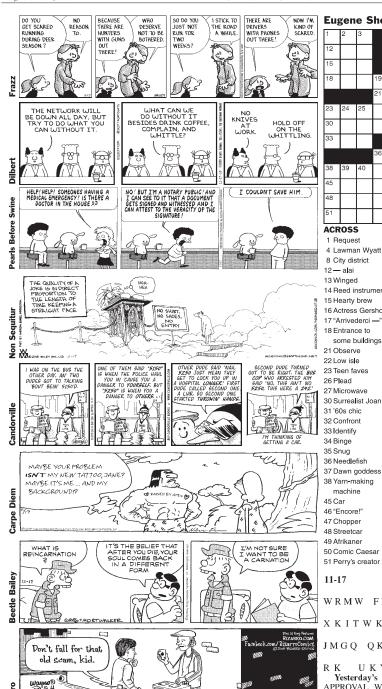
#### CRYPTOQUIP

ERMP WSVMSPM AJGMW

KYYXSGKN EJCR TSCR CRIVTW

ESINU OKNN J CRKC

CES-UJAJC OSPHJXVKCJSP. ACTOR Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHO WELL-KNOWN HIS FOR ONE-OF-A-KIND LUDICROUS AND SILLY ANTICS: GEORGE LOONEY. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals L



#### **Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

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DOWN

2 Auction

3 Chicken -

5 Breathing

7 Frolicked

8 Verbose

Tony

11 Beloved

23 Little rascal

24 Conk out

25 Assoc.

20 Joke

6 Hindu royal

9 Peek suffix

10 Ex-quarterback

19 Norway's capital

1 Slightly open

4 Birds of prey

- 1 Request 4 Lawman Wyatt
- 8 City district
- 12 alai
- 13 Winged
- 14 Reed instrument 15 Hearty brew
- 16 Actress Gershon
- 17 "Arrivederci ---"
- 18 Entrance to
- some buildings
- 22 Low isle
- 23 Teen faves
- 26 Plead
- 27 Microwave
- 31 '60s chic
- 32 Confront
- 33 Identify
- 34 Binge
- 35 Snug
- 36 Needlefish
- 37 Dawn goddess
- 38 Yarn-making
- machine
- 45 Car
- 46 "Encore!"
- 47 Chopper
- 48 Streetcar

- 50 Comic Caesar

STREET-SMART PHONE

- 51 Perry's creator
- 49 Afrikaner
  - PAVED MET YES

- 27 Sharp turn
- 28 German cry
- 29 Favorite
- 31 Xylophone cousin
- 32 Go angling
- 34 Painter Vermeer
- 35 Tall buildings
- 36 Garden statuette
  - 37 Everglades
  - wader
  - 38 Fill fully

  - 39 Kitten's sound
  - 40 Slanted type
  - (Abbr.)
  - 41 Lunch hour
  - 42 Lighten
  - 43 Way out
  - 44 Spartan

  - aueen
- Answer to Previous Puzzle

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#### CRYPTOQUIP

WRMW FLO RMX PKKG M IKEO

XKITWKX JKBRMGZB UTE

JMGQ QKMEO, PLW EKBKGWYQ

UKYY UETJ FEKMOK.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEONE GIVES APPROVAL WITH BOTH THUMBS UP, I WOULD CALL THAT A TWO-DIGIT CONFIRMATION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals G

#### **SCOREBOARD**

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#### Pro soccer

#### MLS playoffs

MLS playoffs
Conference Semifinals
Home-and-home
Externed Columbus 1. New York 0
Atlanta Mestern Conference
Columbus 1. New York 0
Atlanta Mestern Conference
Portland 2. Seattle 1
Sporting Karas Columbus 1. New York City
Atlanta Eastern Conference
Atlanta Seattle 1
All Land Eastern Conference
Atlanta Seattle 1
All Land Eastern Conference
Atlanta Seattle 1
Agregate
Over York City FC 1. Atlanta
advances on 3-1 agregate
Conference
Seattle 3. Portland 2, 4-4 agregate
Control Columbus 1
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até
Conference Championships
Home-and-home
Eastern Conference
First leg
Sunday: New York at Atlanta
Second leg
Thursday, Nov. 29: Atlanta at New

York

Western Conference
First leg
Sunday: Sporting Kansas City at Portland

land Second leg
Thursday, Nov. 29: Portland at Sporting Kansas City
Saturday, Dec. 8
Sporting Kansas City-Portland winner at Atlanta-New York winner

#### Deals

#### Wednesday's transactions

Wednesday's transactions
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ion Jones. BUFFALO BILLS — Signed WR Deonte carolina Panthers - Claimed RB enjon Barner off waivers from New Eng-

nd. **DETROIT LIONS** — Signed CB Mike Ford from the practice squad. Placed G T.J. Lang on injured reserve. Signed S David

Jones to the practice squad.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed OT
Rees Odhiambo to the practice squad.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed WR Brice
Butler

tier. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed LB

REW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed LB RAMING HIMPOTON SIGNATION — Signed DB Kenny LB WY VORK GLOS SIGNATION — ACTIVATED WITH SIGNATION AND SIGNATION — ACTIVATED WITH SIGNATION FOR SIGNATION

NATIONAL PREDATORS — Recalled C Sam Arrick from San Diego (AHL), NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Reinstated

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Reinstated F Austin Watson. NEW YORK RANGERS — Recalled G Marek Mazanec from Hartford (AHL). Assigned G Alexandar Georgiev to Hart-ford.

Assigned G Alexandar Georgiev to Hart-PITTSBURD PPNOUNS. Signed general manager Jim Rutherford to a contract extension through the 2021-22 Angeles Kings for F Tanner Pearson. TENNIS INTEGRITY UNIT — Suspended Guatemalan player Christopher Diaz-temation of the Contract of the Contract School after admitting on mesh king and falling to report a corrupt approach to the TIU.

#### Pro football

#### Wednesday's scores

MIDWEST Ohio 52, Buffalo 17 Miami (Ohio) 13, N. Illinois 7

College football

#### Schedule

Schedule
Fidat, Nov.16
Fidat, Nov.16
Fidat, Nov.16
Boise St. (7.24 Mes)
Boise St. (7.24 Mes)
E. Washington (8.2) at Portland St. (4.6)
Saturday, Nov. 17
Colgate (9-0) at Army (8-2)
Forthann (1.9) at Buelenni (1.9)
Villanova (4-6) at Buelenni (1.9)
Villanova (4-6) at Buelenni (1.9)
Villanova (4-6) at Buelenni (1.9)
San Diego (8-2) at Marist (7.3)
San Diego (8-2) at Marist (4-6) at finde Island
Say Watangshire (4-6) at finded Island

San Diego (6-2) at Marist (5-5) Rev Hampsine (4-6) at Rhode Island Wagner (3-7) at Robert Morris (1-8) Wagner (3-7) at Robert Morris (1-8) Wagner (3-7) at Rudger (4-7) at Rud

Walbaratak (K.) (1.3 set our driver Webb of Samuran (1.3) at 18 set our driver Web of Samuran (2.7) at 18 set of Samuran (2.7) at 18 set of Samuran (2.7) at 18 set of Samuran (2.7) at 18 set of Samuran (2.7) at 18 set our driver (2.7) at 18 set our driver (2.7) at 18 set our driver (3.7) at

Louisiana Tech (1-5) at sudures.
(4-5) con (4-6) at Trenseas (5-5)
Mesous St. (3-7) at Trey (8-2).
Miami (5-5) at Virginia Tech (4-5)
Liberty (4-5) at Virginia Tech (4-5)
Liberty (4-5) at Aubum (6-4)
Lamra (6-4) at McNeese St. (6-4)
Murray St. (5-5) at Austin Peay (4-4)
Georgia Southern (7-3) at Coastal CarSouth Alabama (2-8) at Louisiana-Larecentra (5-6).

South Alabama (2-8) at Louisiana L fayette (5-6) Duke (7-3) at Clemson (10-0) UConn (1-9) at East Carolina (2-7) Rice (1-10) at LSU (8-2) Chattanooga (6-4) at South Carolina (5-4) Mississippi (5-5) at Vanderbilt (4-6) UTEP (1-9) at W. Kentucky (1-9) Cincinnati (9-1) at UCF (3-0) MPWEST immediate (5-5)

UTEP (1-9) at W. Kentucky (1-9)
Cimclinatia J. MigWEST
Northwestern (6-4) at Minnesota (5-5)
Northwestern (6-4) at Minnesota (5-5)
Voungstown St. (4-6) at Illinois St. (6-5)
E. Illinois (6-7) at SE Missour (7-7)
South Bakota (4-6) at S. Bakota St. (6-3)
Bowling Green (1-8) at Akron (4-5)
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tian (6-4) Louisiana-Monroe (6-4) at Arkansas St. (6-4) at Arkansas Sam Houston St. (5-5) at Houston Bap-tist (1-9) tist (1-9) במסום at Houston Bap-West Virginia (8-1) at Oklahoma St. (5-5) UAB (9-1) at Texas A&M (6-4) Kansas (3-7) at Oklahoma (9-1) Iowa St. (6-3) at Texas (7-3) Ark.-Pine Bluff (1-9) at Texas Southern (2-7)

Ark.-Pine Bluff (1-9) at Texas Southern

What (7-3) at Colorado (5-1), (3-7)

Utah (7-3) at Colorado (5-1), (3-7)

Montana St. (4-6) at Montana (6-4)

Southern Cal (6-5) at UCLA (2-8)

Southern Cal (6-5) at UCLA (2-8)

Al Force (4-6) at Woming (4-6)

North Diskota (5-5) at N, Arizona (3-6)

Stanford (6-4) at Olifornia (6-4)

New Mocko (3-1), (3-7) at FPI (6-5)

New Mocko (3-1), (3-7) at FPI (6-5)

Arizona (5-5) at Washington St. (6-4)

UNIV. (2-7) at Heneal (6-5)

#### NFL injury report

(meck), CB Darius Slay (knee), TE Luke Wilson (Shoulden Als. at BAITMORE RAYENS — BENGALS: DNP: LB Preston Brown (finee), WR AJ, Green (Loc), CB Dre Stone (Loc), CB Dre Stone (Loc), CB Dre Stone (Loc), CB Dre Stone (Loc), WR Josh Malone (hamstring), LB Kork (Loc), CB Dre Stone (Loc), WR Josh Malone (hamstring), LB Kork (Loc), DR Mortage Burflet, CD Mortage Burflet, CB Wilson, CB Wil

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TAMPA BAY BUCCAMERS AT NEW TORK GIANTS BUCCAMERS. DAY ONE OF THE OFFICE OF THE OFFICE OF THE OFFICE OF THE OFFICE OF THE OFFICE

Curtis Riley (shoulder). LIMITED: CB Anchoin blamitton (hip), LB Alec Ogletre

TENNESSEE TITANS AI INDIANAPOLIS

COLLS—TITANS-DIPP: IND 2499 H Fuellen

TENNESSEE TITANS AI INDIANAPOLIS

COLLS—TITANS-DIPP: IND 2499 H Fuellen

COLLS—TITANS-DIPP: INDIANAPOLIS

Spain (ankle), WR Taywan Taylor (foot)

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#### Pro hockey

#### ини EASTERN CONFERENCE

	Atla	ntic	Divi	sion								
GP W L OT Pts GF GA												
Tampa Bay	18	12	5	1	25	64	50					
Toronto	18	12	6	0	24	63	47					
Buffalo	18	10	6	2	22	55	53					
Boston	18	10	6	2 3 2	22	56	47					
Montreal	18	9	6	3	21	60	61					
Detroit	18	8	8	2	18	53	61					
Florida	15	7	5	3	17	49	46					
Ottawa	18	7	8	3	17	62	76					
				ivisi								
Columbus	18	10	6	2	22	58	59					
N.Y. Islanders	17	9	6	2	20	54	44					
N.Y. Rangers	18	9	7	2	20	52	55					
Philadelphia	18	9	8	1	19	58	62					
Washington	18	8	7	3	19	60	61					
Carolina	18	8	7	3	19	50	54					
Pittsburgh	16	7	6		17	53	51					
New Jersey	16	7	8	1	15	49	56					
				EREN	ICE							
		tral										
	GP	W	Ļ	OŢ	Pts	GF	GA					
Nashville	18	13	4	1	27	61	42					
Minnesota	18	11	5	2	24	56	49					
Winnipeg	17	11	5	1	23	54	43					
Colorado	18	9	6	3	21	65	53					
Dallas	18	9	7	- 2	20	51	50					

WESTERN CONFERENCE											
Central Division											
GP W L OT Pts GF GA											
Nashville	18	13	4	1	27	61	42				
Minnesota	18	11	5	2	24	56	49				
Winnipea	17	11	5	ī	23	54	43				
Colorado	18	9	6	3 2 4	21	65	53				
Dallas	18	9	7	2	20	51	50 67				
Chicago	19	7	8	4	18	52	67				
St. Louis	16	6	7	3	15	52	52				
	Pac	ific	Divis	ion							
San Jose	19	10	6	3	23	61	59				
/ancouver	20	10	8	2	22	63	69				
Calgary	18	10	7	1	21						
dmonton	18	9	8	1	19	52	56				
Anaheim	20		9	3	19	44					
Arizona	17	8	8	1	17	46					
/egas	19	8	10	1	17	49					
os Angeles	17	. 8 5	11	1	11	34	55				
Note: Tw	o po	ints	for a	a wii	n. on	e po	oint				
or overtim	e lo	ss.	Top	thre	e te	ams	in				
each divisi	on a	nd '	two	wild	car	ds	per				
conference	adva	ince	to p	lavo	ffs.						

inference advance to playoff
Tustaday's games
New Jersey 4, Pittsburgh 2
NY, Islanders 5, Vancouver,
Florida 2, Philadelphia 1
Buffalo 2, Tampa Bay 1
Detroit 6, Arizona 1
Washington 5, Minnesota 2
Edmonton 6, Montreal 2
Toronto 5, Los Angeles 1
San Jose 5, Nashville 4
Winnipeg 3, Washington 1
Chicago 1, St. Louis 0
Colorado 6, Boston 3

Colorado 6, Boston 3 Vegas 5, Anaheim 0
Thursday's games

Florida at Columbus Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh New Jersey at Philadelphia N.Y. Rangers at N.Y. Islande Detroit at Ottawa Vancouver at Minnesota Nashville at Arizona Montreal at Calgary Toronto at San Jose Friday's games

Ironno at Safi Jose
Friday's games
Buffalo at Winnipeg
Boston at Daling
Boston at Colorado
Toronto at Anaheim
St. Louis at Vegas
Saturday's games
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia
Detroit at New Jersey
Buffalo at Minnesota
Pittsburph at Ottawa
Montreal at Vancouver
Columbus at Carolina

Columbus at Carolina Florida at N.Y. Rangers Boston at Arizona Boston at Arizona Los Angeles at Nashville Edmonton at Calgary

Edmonton at Calgary St. Louis at San Jose Sunday's games Dallas at N.Y. Islanders New Jersey at Carolina Minnesota at Chicago Colorado at Anaheim Vegas at Edmonton

#### **Tennis**

#### ATP Finals

Wednesday At O2 Arena London Purse: \$8.5 million (Tour Final) Surface: Hard-Indoor Round Robin

Surface: Hard-Indoor
Round Robin
Round Robin
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Alexander, Zweep (2), German Robin
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Alexander, Zweep (2), German Robin IsserRobin Robin Isser (2), German Robin Isser(3), United States, 5-7 (2), 6-3, 6-4
Standings: Djokovic (2-0), Gests 4-0,
Standings: Djokovic (2-0), Gests 4-0,
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2, 6-4. Standings: M.Bryan-Sock 2-0 (4-0, 26-

Standings: M.Bryan-Sock 2 v 14-v 2 v 14

#### College basketball

#### Wednesday's men's scores

Wednesday's men's scores
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Richmond 88. St. Francis Brooklyn 66
Samford 66, Milos Son (Fla.) 60
The Ctradel 137, Johnson (Fla.) 60
The Ctradel 137, Johnson (Fla.) 60
Union (Tem.) 34, Cumberland (Tem.) 64
VMI 78, SC-Upstater 72
Fradley 74, Jackson Ville St. 66
Clarke 87, Mourit Mercy 73
Endley 74, Jackson Ville St. 66
Clarke 87, Mourit Mercy 73
Endley 74, Jackson Ville St. 66
Loyela of Chicago 75, Nagara 62
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Endley 74, Jackson Ville St. 67
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#### Wednesday's women's scores

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SOUTH
Austin Peay 90, Trevecca Nazarene 78
Bowie St. 80, Wilmington (Del.) 38
Chowan 67, Mount Olive 55
Dillard 72, Louisiana-Lafayette 69
East Carolina 59, Grand Canyon 47 Chowan Fr. Mount Olive State 68

East Carolina Sp. Orand Canyon 47

East Carolina Sp. Orand Canyon 47

Emory & Henry 61, Maryville (Tenn.) 49

Gardner-Webb 54, Davidson 84

High Point 86, Mars Hill 36

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S. Illinois 60, SE Missouri 40
SIU-Edwardsville 54, Evansville 45
Toledo 84, Iona 38
Wichita St. 63, Sam Houston St. 55
William Penn 72, Culver-Stockton 65
SOUTHWEST
Arkansas 66, Texas-Arlington 65
Houston Baptist 81, Texas A&M International 48
LIAI R 61, FAUL 38

House Septist 51, Texas Acon House Septist 51, Texas Acon UTEP 53, CS Bakersfield 47 UTSA 61, Rio Grande 58 FAR WEST Colorado 58, Rio Grande 58 FEST 51, CE CO PC

#### AP sportlight

Nov. 16 1957 — Bill Russell of the Boston Celt-ics sets an NBA Record with 49 rebounds in a 111-89 victory over the Philadelphia Warriors.

#### HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE/SOCCER

#### ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



Volleyball: Geneva Barriger. Stuttgart

eneva Barriger became a star in DODEA Europe volleyball by not really worrying about becoming a star.

"I wasn't necessarily the flashy player," said the Stuttgart Panthers senior outside hitter. "I was definitely more the consistent player."

Barriger's consistency and all-around contributions to the Division I European champions has landed her among the elite in DODEA Europe. She was named the MVP of the Division I tournament after the Panthers swept rival Ramstein 25-23, 25-18, 25-10 for the title Nov. 3. A week later, she played in the annual postseason all-star volleyball matches. Now, Barriger is the Stars and Stripes volleyball Athlete of the Year

Barriger earned all those accolades by making herself indispensable even on a team full of star-caliber performers.

"I was more of the one that they could count on to do it when the going gets tough," Barriger said. "I'm there in case they need me." As it turned out, Barriger found

plenty of ways to contribute. That started the way every vol-

Inat started the way every volleyball point starts — with the serve. Barriger was a standout in that regard even on a team that heavily stresses the importance of the serve. She earned the status as the first server up in Stuttgart's rotation, led the Panthers in the regular season with 77 aces and added another 17 in the tournament.

That emphasis on service didn't detract from Barriger's play at the net. She racked up 91 kills in the regular season and 51 more over the three-day tournament, developing a rapport with freshman setter Audrey Moeding and making good on what chances came her way amongst Stuttgart's deep contingent of high-powered

"She was instrumental in the relentless barrage of aces and kills during the semifinals and finals of the tournament," Stuttgart coach Michael Rubino said.

That brilliant all-around effort helped put the Panthers bad atop Division I. Barriger and all-star teammates Bella Brandt and Carly Sharp were key members of the Panthers' undefeated 2016 championship team, absorbed the heartbreak of a 2017 title-match loss to Lakenheath, and returned in 2018 to restore that interrupted dynasty.

"We all knew that we wanted to win this championship, and we didn't really let anything get in the way of that," Barriger said. "We all worked together as a team to get it. It wasn't just one person. It was a team effort."

And every team needs players like Barriger.

broome.gregory@stripes.com Twitter: @broomestripes



BRIAN FERGUSON/Stars and Stripes

#### Football: Bailey Holland, Ramstein

t's not uncommon for a DODEA Europe athlete to play iron-man football. It's uncommon to play it as well as Ramstein Royals senior Bailey Holland.

Holland, the 2018 Stars and Stripes football Athlete of the Year, was a centerpiece of the undefeated European champions on both sides of the ball, leading the team's suffocating defense from the key middle linebacker position while contributing productive carries as a hard-hitting fullback.

"I just felt like my role was to do whatever the coaches asked of me, and/or whatever the team needed of me," Holland said. "Whatever to make the team better."

The Royals asked a lot of Holland, and he consistently delivered, in both tangible and intangible ways. Linebackers coach Kevin Smith called Holland "the hardest-working player on the team," while offensive coordinator Andrew Short cited Holland's "enormous passion" for the sport.

"He is dedicated to making everyone around him a better player and citizen," Short said.

The Ramstein coaching staff's trust in Holland extended well beyond straightforward senior leadership. Royals head coach and defensive mastermind Carter Hollenbeck allowed Holland to adjust coverage in real time. True to form, Holland brought the same team-first approach to that assignment.

"If I saw something different...
I'd change the play and rearrange
the defense, put my teammates in
a place where they can succeed,
even if that meant I wouldn't be
able to get into the play," Holland
said. "As long as we were stopping
them, that was what we wanted. I
feel like I did that well."

On offense, Holland fit in seamlessly with the high-powered Royal offense. Short said Holland was "a hard inside runner which helped set up the outside running game"

Holland was more concerned with his team's success than his own individual accomplishments, but he ultimately reaped plenty of both

The Royals went undefeated in the regular season and outlasted Lakenheath 30-12 on Nov. 3 for the Division I European championship. Holland finished the season with 80 rushes for 520 yards and six touchdowns on offense along with 68 total tackles, a sack, an interception and a blocked

As those diverse statistics suggest, Holland was eager to jump into any role the Royals offered.

"I was excited to just be playing," Holland said. "Whenever football comes around, I just get excited to finally be back in pads and able to do what I love to play."

#### Pulisic takes on leadership role for US

By Rob Harris Associated Press

LONDON — Back with the United States for only the second time in an injury-troubled year, Christian Pulisic has watched the Americans rebuild from afar after their failure to qualify for the World Cup.

"I definitely need to be a more important piece of this team and continue to grow as a leader," the 20-year-old midfielder said ahead of Thursday's friendly against England. "It's tough because I'm not a very vocal guy, not super outgoing. But I think the biggest thing I can do is lead by example. I want to show these guys how it's

done on a professional level." Pulisic is talking like a veteran and yet only debuted in March 2016. The Hershey, Pa., native has 21 appearances and nine goals, the last in the 2-1 loss at Trinidad and Tobago in October 2017 that ended the American's streak of seven straight World Cups. Pulisic's only appearance since has been in a friendly against Bolivia in May.

His focus has been getting playing time at Borussia Dortmund, a task frustrated by injuries. Pulisic didn't even make the bench Saturday when Dortmund beat Bundesliga champion Bayern Munich 3-2 to stay atop the standings. Pulisic confirmed he was '100 percent' fit last weekend.

"It's tough. I had some injuries going on and off, and I got some games that I missed out," Pulisic said Wednesday. "We have a great team this year. I want to be on the field just like everyone else does."

Pulisic inherited Landon Donovan's No. 10 jersey and his importance to the U.S. team.

The burden of pressure, too, at a young age, much like Wayne Rooney experienced with England. Now 33 and finishing his career in Major League Soccer, the D.C. United striker is making a one-off England return after a two-year absence and will make his 120th appearances.

Rooney was part of an England "golden generation" that failed to live up to the hype. With a more low-key approach and most players unscarred by past setbacks, England in July unexpectedly reached its first World Cup semifinal in 28 years.

"It's an inspiration for us," Pulisic said. "We definitely feel that with the young side that we can also do something like that. That's the goal for us."

Pulisic has spoken with new U.S. team general manager Earnie Stewart, who says he will hire the next U.S. coach later this year. After that will be qualifying for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, and Pulisic figures to be in the prime of his career when the U.S. cohosts the 2026 tournament with Canada and Mexico.

#### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## **ND's Williams finds footing**

#### Running back overcomes troubles to become No. 3 Irish's workhorse

By TODD BURLAGE Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. nior Dexter Williams has been through countless ups and downs during his four years at Notre

Injury, suspension, an arrest, the emotions of helping his ailing mother - all of it has weighed down Williams at times. He has emerged just the same as the workhorse running back for the third-ranked Fighting Irish, and a key reason Notre Dame has legitimate hopes of making the playoff.

In a 42-13 rout of Florida State last week, Williams piled up a career-high 202 yards on just 20 carries, becoming the first running back to surpass 200 rushing yards against the Seminoles since 1982. Nicknamed "Juice" by his teammates, he had scoring runs of 58 and 32 yards.

"I told the offensive line to give me a crease, and I would make a couple of runs for them," said Williams, who already this season had touchdown runs of 97 and 31 yards against Virginia Tech and 45 yards against Stanford

With four 100-plus vard performances in six games, Williams' per-game rushing average stands at 128.3 yards, which would rank fifth in the country if he had enough games to be included among the NCAA leaders. His 6.8 yards per carry would be 13th. He leads the Irish with 770 yards





No. 10 Syracuse (8-2) at No. 3 Notre Dame (10-0) AFN-Sports

8:30 p.m. Saturday CET 4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

and 10 touchdowns, exceeding expectations as Notre Dame (10-0) prepares for Saturday's game at Yankee Stadium in New York against No. 12 Syracuse (8-2). "His nickname is 'Juice' for a

reason," said Irish senior wide receiver Miles Boykin. "His energy is contagious."

It took Williams more than

three years - and plenty of adversity — to get to this point.

In 2016, Williams was one of five Irish players arrested for nossession of marijuana during a traffic stop. An injury cost him three straight games in 2017, and he opened this season with a fourgame suspension for violating unspecified team rules.

"Me missing four games, I had a chance to really just settle down and really think about what I wanted as a person," said Williams, adding that the depression and guilt he felt from disappointing his teammates was almost un-bearable. "It really just took time and I just had to humble myself to continue to strive for greatness."

Reflection and maturation helped Williams find his footing, in both school and football. He is expected to graduate next month with his degree in Africana

"Just growing up in his maturity, ownership and being accountable and responsible," coach Brian Kelly said.

But a mother's love, support and sacrifice were equally as important as anything Williams did on his own. Recognizing that her son was hurting as suspension loomed, Dexter's 60-year-old mother, Cheryl Williams, relocated to South Bend from her home near Orlando, Fla., and moved into an apartment with her son before the season Mother keeps son on track and

well fed. Son watches over mom as she battles two incurable diseases - myasthenia gravis and pulmonary arterial hypertension, ailments doctors say will take her within the next few years.

"As much as I can do off the field for her, and just being able to make her happy when I'm playing the game of football, and just having her here has helped me out a lot." Dexter Williams said. "and I'm pretty sure it has helped her a lot too."

Dexter Williams cherishes



Notre Dame running back Dexter Williams runs for a touchdown against Florida State last week. Williams, a senior, has been through countless ups and downs during his four years at Notre Dame, including injury, suspension, an arrest, and the emotions of helping his ailing mother.

every day he shares with his mother, and uses his fresh outlook to lift her spirits and fuel his

"There is nothing like having a lot of love for your mother," Williams said. "So having her here with me brightens my day."

## Orange's Dungey nears end of memorable career

By JOHN KEKIS Associated Press

SYRACUSE. N.Y. - After Syracuse defeated Louisville in its home season finale Friday night, Orange coach Dino Babers brought the seniors out of the locker room to mingle one last time with their fans inside the Carrier Dome. Quarterback Eric Dungey lingered longer than most, snapping selfie after selfie with fans.

It was a moment to savor for one of the most dynamic players in school history as No. 12 Syracuse (8-2, 5-2 ACC) continued its return to respectability under the leadership of its third-year coach and his star quarterback.

"We've been through a lot," Dungey said. "It's just been an incredible experience."

That skinny kid who was thrust into the season opener his freshman year when senior Terrel Hunt suffered a career-ending injury, then delivered a victory in his first college start the next week, has overcome at least one concussion and a broken foot to flourish at Syracuse. Dungey holds or shares 16 team records - from passing yards per game in a season (297.7) to career 300-yard passing games (10) to total offense per game for a season (330.2) and career (294.3) to most rushing yards in a game by a quarterback (200). He has 10,594 total yards, fifth all-time in the ACC, and needs just 71 yards rushing to reach 2,000

for his career.
"I think it's the confidence I have in myself," said Dungey, who starred at Lakeridge High School outside Portland, Ore.,



Syracuse senior quarterback Eric Dungey holds or shares 16 team records, and needs just 71 yards rushing to reach 2.000 for his career.

but had few college suitors. "I was underrecruited. Our confidence wasn't as high as it should have been.

"I just put everything I had into this team, this school. It just feels good to finally get some wins out of it." Those records have been achieved de-

spite long absences due to injury by a player who has uncanny physical ability as a runner that's allowed him to hurdle over defenders. Or better vet, now that he's a 226-pound tower of muscle, run over 'He is an energized guy that I think has

to have the respect of everybody on that team and the fans, too, because he plays the game like it's his last game," said Miami coach Mark Richt, a former quarterback. "It's just impressive to see him operate."

That broken foot happened last fall early in Syracuse's game at Florida State. It didn't prevent Dungey from finishing the game and nearly leading the Orange to victory. His line: 24 completions for two touchdowns and 109 yards rushing and another score in a three-point loss.

"The energy we get from him is the way he competes. I mean, don't you get energy from the way he competes?" Babers asked. "When you're watching him, you're going, OMG. He's fearless. He's wreckless, and we love him.'

To be sure, the injuries have been a major hindrance for the team because they've kept Dungey on the sideline for 10 entire games and most of another. In between, he's guided Syracuse to stunning home victories over Virginia Tech and Clemson, and two weeks ago he outdueled North Carolina State star Ryan Finley in a 51-41 victory over the No. 22 Wolfpack.

Dungey's final season has been injury-

free. He's adapted his style, often sliding to safety instead of confronting tacklers head-on, and the high-powered offense has purred for the most part, averaging 44 points a game. But it has not been without its trials

The broken foot opened a window for redshirt freshman backup Tommy DeVito to strut his stuff, and he has developed ranidly, taking first-string snaps in spring ball while Dungey was on the mend and mounting a challenge in preseason camp.

That experience has paid big dividends for the Orange. When Dungey faltered late and the Orange fell behind North Carolina three weeks ago, DeVito replaced him and led Syracuse to an overtime win as Dungey cheered from the sideline. DeVito also starred in a win over Florida State when Dungey had to sit because of blurred vision caused by a fragment from the artificial turf field

Now Dungey is poised for perhaps the biggest game of his career. The Orange face No. 3 Notre Dame (10-0) at Yankee Stadium on Saturday as the Irish chase a spot in the College Football Playoff.

No matter the outcome, the story of the likable kid from the West Coast, whose off-the-field antics included backflips off 20-foot ledges and plunges from 75-foot towers into the Willamette River, won't soon be forgotten

"When this guy rolls out of here, there's going to be tall tales about him," Babers said. "Everybody's going to say, 'Nah, he didn't do that.' The heck he didn't."

#### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## RBs play key role in WSU's Air Raid

By Nicholas K. Geranios

Associated Press

While quarterback Gardner Minshew is getting most of the attention, running backs James Williams and Max Borghi have also helped fuel the rise of No. 8 Washington State this season.

Williams and Borghi play key roles in the complex Air Raid offense, which is mostly geared to passing.

In Saturday's 31-7 blowout of Colorado, the Cougars rushed a season-high 33 times for 131 yards. The two running backs added eight catches for 77 yards and scored a pair of touchdowns.

"I think one of the biggest things was how good our running game was today." Minshew said afterward. "Our O-line and our running backs hit it hard."

Coach Mike Leach likes to point out that the Air Raid depends heavily on running backs who serve as blockers and receivers.

"You have to rush, catch and block at WSU," Leach said. "Not just one of the three. You have to do all three."

The backs have certainly done their part in protecting Minshew, who has been sacked just seven times this season. The Cougars, meantime, have sacked opposing quarterbacks 30 times.

"We got two running backs who can do it all," Williams said.

Washington State (9-1, 6-1 Pac-12) can win the Pac-12 North if it beats Arizona on Saturday night and rival Washington on Nov. 23. The Cougars also have an outside chance of making the College Football Playoff for the first time if they win out.

The Cougars are where they are thanks in part to Williams, a 205-pound junior, and Borghi, a freshman.

Williams, who is from Bur-

bank, Calif., has rushed for 437 yards and nine touchdowns and he leads the team with 63 receptions, good for 506 yards and another three touchdowns.
"James does a good job of mak-

ing people miss when he is in space," Leach said. "He can do everything you ask a running back to do."

Williams said he has improved as a rusher by concentrating on hitting holes. "I used to have a problem

with bouncing things out when I shouldn't have," Williams said. While Williams is a shifty and

while williams is a shifty and powerful rusher, the 5-foot-10 Borghi is low to the ground and rushes through gaps in the line. Leach said they complement each other with their play.

Borghi has rushed for 283 yards and six touchdowns this season, and caught 34 passes for 238 yards and four more scores.

As a team, the Cougars have rushed for 18 touchdowns this season, three more than their opponents. The Cougars rushed for just eight touchdowns last season.

Of course, they don't call it the Air Raid for nothing. The Cougars rank first in the nation in passing yardage, but only 128th among FBS teams with an average of 77 rushing yards per game.

Borghi, who was in high school in Colorado at this time last year, has been a revelation. He reminds many of former Stanford standout Christian McCaffrey, who now plays in the NFL. The two have worked out together in the past.

"I don't know where his ceil-

"I don't know where his ceiling is," Leach said. "We are kind of in the business of not having ceilings."

Borghi spurned offers from Colorado and Stanford to come to Pullman



AVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Colorado defensive back Nick Fisher, left, tackles Washington State running back James Williams after a short gain Saturday.



lick Wagner, Austin American-Statesman/A

West Virginia quarterback Will Grier scores the game-winning, two-point conversion against Texas on Nov. 3 in Austin, Texas. West Virginia is tied with Oklahoma for the Big 12 lead.

# Four Big 12 teams have shot to make title game

By Stephen Hawkins

sixth-ranked Oklahoma or No. 7 West Virginia will play in the Big 12 championship game. They might be facing each other, too,

The Sooners, Mountaineers, No. 13 Texas and No. 18 Iowa State are the final four teams still in contention for the two spots in the Big 12 title game Dec. 1. There are also two big head-to-head matchups the last two weekends of the regular season before then.

Three-time defending Big 12 champion (Oklahoma (9-1, 6-1 Big 12) or the Mountaineers (8-1, 6-1) advance by winning their last two agames. Since they play each other in the regular-season finale, it is impossible for both to finish 8-1 in conference play, but they could still face each other two weeks in a row — the day after Thanksgiving in Morgantown and then for the Big 12 title in the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys.

"We've got a lot of big goals and our goals are kind of predicated on us playing our best ball here at the end of year," Sooners coach Lincoln Rilev said Monday.

Every Big 12 team plays each other in the round-robin conference schedule that sets up one rematch for a guaranteed spot in the New Year's Six bowl game. And if Oklahoma or West Virginia win out, they could possibly make it into the College Football Playoff.

Iowa State (6-3, 5-2) plays Sat-



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/A

Iowa State head coach Matt Campbell, left, talks with Texas head coach Tom Herman before their game on Sept. 28 last season.

urday at Texas (7-3, 5-2) in what will be their only meeting this season. There is no possible scenario that could create a championship game rematch between the teams currently tied for third

The Cyclones have won five Big 12 games in a row for the first time in school history.

That has come since opening conference play with losses to Oklahoma and TCU, the teams that played in last year's Big 12 title game after both lost to Iowa State in the 2017 regular season.

Since a 37-27 win at Iowa State in mid-September, Oklahoma has scored at least 45 points in each of its last six conference games. But the Sooners lost 48-45 to Texas, a setback that would keep them out of the Big 12 title game if it came down to a head-to-head tiebreaker between the Red River rivals.

West Virginia's only loss was a month ago at Iowa State, but the Mountaineers won 42-41 at Texas when quarterback Will Grier ran for a 2-point conversion in the final minute

That means opposite tiebreaker scenarios against the current co-leaders for the Longhorns and Cyclones: Texas over Oklahoma; and Iowa State over West

#### OLLEGE FOOTBALL

#### Top 25 schedule

#### Friday No. 23 Boise State at New Mexico

No. 23 Boise State at New Mexico
No. 1 Alabama vs. The Citadel
No. 2 Clemson vs. Duke
No. 2 Clemson vs. Duke
No. 2 Clemson vs. Duke
No. 3 Notre Dame vs. No. 12 Syracuse,
Son. 3 Notre Dame vs. No. 12 Syracuse,
No. 5 Oklahoma vs. Kansan
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No. 22 Boston College at Florida State No. 24 Northwestern at Minnesota No. 25 Mississippi State vs. Arkansas

#### Service academies



at Wyoming Last week: Beat New Mexico 42-24



vs. Colgate Last week: Beat Lafavette, 31-13



vs Tulsa Last week: Lost to UCF.

#### Power Five standings

Clemson Syracuse	ACC Atlantic	Coi	0	Overall 10 0 8 2
Boston College NC State Wake Forest Florida State Louisville	Coastal	7 5 4 3 2 2 0	2 3 4 5 7	8 2 7 3 6 3 5 5 4 6 2 8
Pittsburgh Virginia Georgia Tech Virginia Tech Duke Miami North Carolina	Coastai	5 4 4 3 3 2 1	1 2 3 3 4 6	6 4 7 3 6 4 4 5 7 3 5 5 1 8
	Big 12			
Oklahoma West Virginia		6	1	9 1 8 1

Iexas	5 2	7 3
Iowa State	5 2	6 3
Baylor	3 4	5 5
Texas Tech	3 4	5 5
TCU	2 5	4 6
Kansas State	2 5	4 6
Oklahoma State	2 5	5 5
Kansas	1 6	3 7

	Rig len			
Michigan Ohio State	East	7	0	9 1 9 1
Michigan State Penn State Maryland Indiana		6 4 3 2	1 3 4 5	9 1 9 1 6 4 7 3 5 5 5 5
Rutgers Northwestern Wisconsin	West	6	7	
Purdue Iowa Nebraska Illinois		4 4 3 2 2 2 2	3 4 5 5 5	6 4 5 5 6 4 3 7 4 6
Minnesota	Pac-12	2	5	5 5

wiiiiiesota		-	3		,
	ac-12				
Washington State Washington Stanford Oregon California Oregon State	North South	6 5 4 3 3	1 2 3 4 4 6	9 7 6 6 6 2	1 3 4 4 4 8
Utah Arizona State Arizona USC Colorado UCLA	South	5 4 4 2 2	3 3 4 5	7 6 5 5 5 2	3 4 5 5 5 8
	SEC				
Georgia Kentucky Florida South Carolina Missouri Tennessee Vanderbilt	East	7 5 4 2 2	1 3 4 4 4 5	9 7 7 5 6 5 4	1 3 4 4 5 6
Alabama LSU Texas A&M Auburn Mississippi State	west	7 5 4 3 2	0 2 3 4 4	10 8 6 6 6	0 2 4 4 4



CARLOS OSORIO/AF

Ohio State linebacker Malik Harrison, left, and defensive tackle Dre'Mont Jones celebrate after Jones' fumble recovery at the 2-yard line last week against Michigan State. The No. 8 Buckeyes face Maryland on Saturday (AFN-Sports2, 6 p.m. Saturday, CET; 2 a.m. Sunday, JKT).

#### Key Power Five matchups

#### Arizona at No. 9 Washington State 4:30 a.m. Sunday, CET 12:30 p.m. Sunday, JKT AFN-Sports

Series record: Arizona leads 27-16. What's at stake?: Washington State looking to stay on track for its first Pac-12 North title and longshot bid for a College Football Playoff berth. The Cougars seek their first 10-win season since 2003. Arizona is seeking to become bowl eligible in Coach Kevin Sumlin's first season.

Key matchup: Arizona's porous defense against the Pac-12's top offense. The Cougars average 470 yards per game, while Arizona is yielding 417 yards per game. Cold temperatures expected in Pullman could impact players used to warmer conditions.

Players to watch: Arizona: QB Khalil Tate shredded the Cougars in a Wildcats' victory last season, but has been less consistent this year. RB J.J. Taylor has rushed for 558 yards and three touchdowns in his past three games.

Washington State: QB Gardner Minshew leads the nation in passing, and is threatening to break the Pac-12's season passing yardage record of 4,714 yards held by Cal's Jared Goff. Minshew has 3,852 passing vards.

Facts & figures: Minshew-mania has swept Cougar Nation, with many fans sporting fake mustaches in honor of the quarterback's facial hair. ... Sixth-vear linebacker Pevton Pelluer, who is the fourth generation of his family to play at Washington State, has tied the team record by appearing in 51 games. On Saturday he will likely break the record he shares with defensive lineman Daniel Ekuale and receiver Gabe Marks ... This marks the first time in WSU history that the football program has won at least eight games for four straight seasons ... Sumlin used to be a graduate assistant at Washington State in 1989 and 1990 ... Washington State has won 12 straight home games ... Arizona leads the Pac-12 with 206 yards rushing per game.

#### Duke at No. 2 Clemson 1 a.m. Sunday, CET 9 a.m. Sunday, JKT **AFN-Sports**

Series record: Clemson leads 36-16-1. What's at stake?: Clemson is in prime position for its fourth straight College Football Playoff, which could disappear with a loss to Duke - or anyone else - down the stretch. The Blue Devils are seeking an eighth win in a season for the fourth time in the past six years.

Key matchup: Duke QB Daniel Jones v Clemson's defensive line. Jones rushed for 186 yards — a school record for a quarterback — last ek in beating North Carolina 42-35. The Tigers held Boston College to 113 total yards in a 27-7 win. Clemson is third nationally in fewest yards rushing allowed at 82.3 per game.

Players to watch: Duke: RB Deon Jackson. The sophomore set the program record with 403 all-purpose vards in a loss at Pitt last month. Jackson has 725 yards and seven TDs.

Clemson: DT Christian Wilkins. The Tigers senior will make a solo run down the hill into Memorial Stadium as part of Senior Night. Count on him to put on a show when the game starts. He has been the emotional leader for Clemson this year and he's fifth on the team with 40 tackles. He's also had three sacks and team high 10 quarterback pressures.

Facts & figures: Clemson and Duke have not played in football since the Tigers' 56-20 win in 2012, ... The Blue Devils' last win in the series came at Duke, 16-13, in 2004, ... Duke ensured its fifth winning season in the past six years, the longest such stretch since having five winning seasons out of six from 1960-65. ... Clemson is seeking its fourth 11-0 start after accomplishing it in 1948, 1981 and 2015. The Tigers won the national title in 1981. ... Clemson is looking for its 51st win of the past four years. That would be a school and ACC record for the 2018 senior class. ... Duke TE David Koppenhaver caught his 11th career TD pass, breaking the school record of 10 held by Stan Crisson from 1961-63.

#### Kansas at No. 6 Oklahoma 1:30 a.m. Sunday, CET 9:30 a.m. Sunday, JKT AFN-Atlantic

Series record: Oklahoma leads 75-27-6. What's at stake?: Oklahoma is trying to remain in the running for a spot in the Big 12 title game and a shot at the College Football Playoff, and QB Kyler Murray is trying to strengthen his case for the Heisman Trophy. Kansas has a chance to get a big win for coach David Beaty, who will not be retained after the season.

Key matchup: Oklahoma QB Kyler Murray vs. Kansas defense. Murray has posted what projects to be the most efficient passing season in FBS history while rushing for 640 yards. Kansas is ninth in the Big 12 in total defense.

Players to watch: Kansas: RB Pooka Williams. The freshman is sixth in the Big 12 with 68.9 yards per game in league play and second in all-purpose yardage with 133.9 yards per game.

Oklahoma: RBs Kennedy Brooks and Trey Sermon. Brooks, a freshman, is averaging 98.2 yards per game and 11.1 yards per carry in league play. Sermon is averaging 92.1 yards per game in conference play. Together, they have helped the Sooners lead the Big 12 in rushing by a wide margin.

Facts & figures: Oklahoma has won 15 straight November games dating back to 2014. ... Oklahoma has won 13 straight in the series. ... Kansas LB Joe Dineen leads the Big 12 in tackles. ... Oklahoma WR Marquise Brown is a semifinalist for the Biletnikoff Award for the nation's top receiver. ... Oklahoma OG Ben Powers is a semifinalist for the Outland Trophy. which is awarded to the nation's best interior offensive or defensive lineman.

- Associated Press

# **DeGrom, Snell win Cy Young awards**

By Jake Seiner Associated Press

NEW YORK — After a season marred by narrow defeats, Jacob deGrom became a runaway winner.

The New York Mets ace easily won the National League Cy Young Award on Wednesday night, a reward for a historically fruitless season in Flushing. The right-hander had just 10 victories, the fewest ever by a Cy Youngwinning starter.

The AL prize also reflected a change in voters' values, with Blake Snell of the Tampa Bay Rays narrowly beating out pass winners Justin Verlander and Corey Kluber for his first Cy Young. Snell pitched just 180½ innings, fewest ever by a Cy Young-winning starter. Over full seasons, Snell is the second starter to win the award with fewer than 200 innings after Clayton Kershaw logged 198½ in 2014.

"I definitely think the game has changed in that aspect," deGrom said.

"I feel like it's just turning more into quality of work and what did you accomplish in those innings," Snell said. "I think that's just the way it's going."

DeGrom easily beat out Washseeking a third straight Cy Young and fourth overall. DeGrom got 29 first-place votes and 207 points from members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Scherzer had the other first-place

In his first season after chopping off his distinctive long hair, deGrom cut down hitters from start to finish despite little help from teammates. He had a 1.70 ERA, the lowest in the NL since Zack Greinke's 1.66 mark in 2015. Yet the 30-year-old right-hander went 10-9, eclipsing the low bar among starters of 13 victories set by the Dodgers' Fernando Valenzuela in 1981 and matched by Seatle's Felix Hernandez in 2010.

DeGrom allowed three runs or fewer in 29 consecutive starts to close the season, breaking Leslie "King" Cole's 108-year-old record of 26 such outings. Yet the Mets were 11-18 in those games and 14-18 overall with deGrom on the mound

Hernandez's Cy Young victory islammaded a major shift from voters, who once prioritized pitcher wins. The push toward advanced analytics made deGrom's candidacy possible, and by September there was little debate deGrom was worthy, even as the Mets regularly wasted his dominance

"This was one of my goals," degrom said. "The team didn't end up where we wanted to be this past season, but you kind of se personal goals, and I think being able to accomplish something that has been a dream of yours is just something special. To be a Cy Young Award winner, you're in great company, and it truly is an honor."

Perhaps no pitcher had ever



BILL KOSTROUN, ABOVE, AND STEVE NESIUS, BELOW/AP

Above: New York Mets pitcher Jacob deGrom earned just 10 victories this season, but won the NL Cy Young Award with a 1.70 ERA. He allowed three runs or fewer inb 29 consecutive starts. Below: Tampa Bary's Blake Snell won 21 games and posted a 1.89 ERA to win the AL Cy Young.

#### By the numbers

**10** 

Number of victories by the Mets' Jacob deGrom, the fewest ever by a Cy Young-winning starter.

180<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>

Number of innings pitched by the Rays' Blake Snell, the fewest ever by a Cy Young-winning starter.

1.70

DeGrom's ERA, the lowest in the National League since Zach Greinke's 1.66 mark in 2015.

SOLIRCE: Associated Press

been such a hard-luck loser. New York averaged 3.5 runs in games started by deGrom, second only to Cole Hamels for worst support in the majors among qualified pitchers. During one stretch late in the season, the Mets totaled 10 runs over seven of deGrom's outings, and four of those were driven in by the pitcher himself.

DeGrom nearly produced more



wins above replacement than actual wins — an unfortunate sabermetric feat that has only been accomplished once, when the Philadelphia Athletics' Eddie Smith went 4-17 with 4.1 WAR in 1937. Baseball-Reference calculated deGrom for 9.6 WAR.

The 2014 NL Rookie of the Year, he became the seventh rookie winner voted a Cy Young, joining fellow Mets Tom Seaver and Dwight Gooden. R.A. Dickey was the only other Met to win a Cy Young.

The Mets unveiled a deGrom bobblehead featuring the Cy Young Award shortly after de-Grom was crowned. They will give away 25,000 prior to a home game April 7 against Scherzer's Nationals Snell got 17 first-place votes and 169 points to 13 first-place votes and 154 points for Verlander. Kluber had 71 points, followed by Boston's Chris Sale and Houston's Gerrit Cole

Snell had a 1.89 ERA, third best in the AL since the DH was introduced, trailing only Ron Guidry (1.74) in 1978 and Pedro Martinez (1.74) in 2000. The 25-year-old pitched 33½ fewer innings than Verlander, but his dominance was enough to sway the electrorate.

The lefty nicknamed Snellzilla wreaked havoc against the AL's top lineups. He was 3-0 with a 1.08 ERA in four starts against the World Series champion Red Sox, and 2-0 in two starts each against the Astros and Indians. The Yankees roughed Snell up twice, but he got through five scoreless innings in a victory Aug. 16. That came during a late-season run of nine consecutive wins for Snell, including a victory against every team in the AL East. He also made five starts against former Cv Young winners and went 3-0 with an 0.59 ERA.

Snell was the first player 25or-younger to win 21 games since Barry Zito in 2002. He was highly regarded as a minor leaguer for his electric arsenal, but subpar control led to struggles during his first two major league seasons. He was even demoted to Triple-A for a month in 2017.

tr all came together this year. Snell was a stalwart for a most unusual pitching staff, taking the ball every fifth day while manager Kevin Cash successfully experimented with reliever "openers" to start games in between Snell led the Rays with 31 starts, and no other traditional starter had more than 17. After longtime franchise ace Chris Archer was traded to the Pirates on July 31, Snell went 9-0 with a 1.17 EPA

"I felt with the opener, I had a bigger role on the team," Snell said.

Snell is the second Rays pitcher to win the award, following David Price in 2012.

Scherzer went 18-7 with a 2.53 ERA and led the majors with 220½ innings and 300 strikeouts. He was attempting to become the first player since Randy Johnson to win three consecutive Cy Youngs. He got the first-place vote of John Maffei of the San Diego Union-Tribune, 29 seconds and 123 points. Aaron Nola of the Philadelphia Phillies was third with 86 points, followed by Colorado's Kyle Freeland and Arizona's Patrick Corbin.

Verlander led the AL with 290 strikeouts while going 16-9 with a 2.52 ERA for AL West champion Houston. This is his third secondplace finish since winning the Cy Young and MVP in 2011 with Detroit.

Kluber was attempting to win his second straight Cy Young and third overall. He went 20-7 with a 2.89 ERA for AL Central champion Cleveland and led the AL with 215 innings.

#### NBA/AUTO RACING

#### Butler, 76ers have time to get it together

By TIM REYNOLDS Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. - Time. right now, is Jimmy Butler's best

That's all that the Philadelphia 76ers and their newest player need. They will figure things out, figure out who goes where and who does what in every situation. In time, they'll be able to get back to their usual arsenal of plays and sets, a repertoire they had to pare down considerably for Butler's debut with his new club.

There were promising mo-ments Wednesday night. There were also some moments of confusion, some mistakes at the absolute wrong times. In the end, it all added up to Philadelphia losing Butler's debut with the 76ers Orlando beating them 111-106 in a game where Philly led by 16 in the fourth quarter before the Magic ripped off a 21-0 run.

Patience is required when an NBA team makes a move of this magnitude, and Butler knows

"How tough will it be? Nah, it's not hard at all," Butler said after scoring 14 points. "So far we all get along. I think that's the first thing - we all want each other to be great. We're all talking about where we're supposed to be and what we see out there on the floor.

"I'm telling you, it's coming sooner rather than later. We're going to be just fine."

That wasn't the case Wednesday. Butler, Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons - the NBA's newest incarnation of a Big Three - shot a combined 1-for-9 in the fourth quarter, the big lead slipped away and the game was soon gone.

"You're disappointed to lose with it Jimmy's first game," 76ers coach Brett Brown said. "But there are a lot of good things you can see that can happen."

This has been a whirlwind for the four-time All-Star. Butler was traded Monday to the 76ers by Minnesota, flew to Orlando on Tuesday and went to a team dinner that night. His first and only practice was the shootaround session Wednesday morning. Butler met with Brown to go over things, and got 1-on-1 advice from JJ Redick before leaving with a basic understanding of what the

76ers wanted to run. They didn't lose because Butler was confused, because he wasn't. They didn't lose because they dumbed-down the game plan, either. Orlando got hot at the precise moment that Philadelphia went cold, and that just happens.

But even in a losing locker room, Philly's players knew they had just seen flashes of potential.

"Having a guy like that, somebody who's going to push every body, he's going to help a lot," Simmons said.



MATT ROUBKE/AP

Jimmy Butler scored 14 points in his debut with the 76ers on Wednesday, a 111-106 loss to the Magic.

Philly was an Eastern Conference contender before Butler got there, and having him only further legitimizes those hones. The 76ers now are about to play seven of their next nine games at home, with the first eight of those games against clubs either at or below .500 right now. It's not exactly a daunting stretch of games, which is perfect for the 76ers as they try to figure out what works best for the new guy.

"It's going to be easy to play with those guys," Butler said.

And if there's a team that knows how to value taking time, it's Philadelphia. "The Process" was a grind of loss after dizzying loss and it lasted years. The 76ers were a laughingstock, a punch line, and they stuck to their convictions because they believed it would work.

Now, they're an East favorite, a legit title hopeful.

The life that we have lived in Philadelphia from being 1-30 to now," Brown said. "Think about that."

He sounds like he's speaking of a faraway time, but it isn't.

The 76ers woke up on Christ-mas in 2015 with a 1-30 record. They had losing streaks of 12. 12, 13 and 18 games that season alone on their way to the Rock Bottom that was 10-72. The year before, they started 0-17. Here's how atrociously and historically bad they were: Even after going 52-30 last season, even if they go 66-0 the rest of this season and if they go 82-0 next season, Brown would still have a career record below .500.

There's pressure now. The burden of expectation. Brown knows it all exists but

doesn't seem to mind. "It's going to take time," Brown said, then repeated those words. "It's going to take time."

The big question is how much time Philadelphia is going to need before it figures everything out.

When we put this thing to gether," Butler said, "we're going to be tough."

#### NBA scoreboard

#### Eastern Conference .800 .571 .563 Toronto Boston Philadelphia Brooklyn New York .400 .500 .467 .429 .357 .214 7 8 8 9 Washington Atlanta Central Division 10 4 8 6 7 6 .714 .571 .538 Indiana Detroit 11 .267 12 .143

#### .615 .538 .500 New Orleans Portland Denver Oklahoma City .714 .643 .643 Utah Minnesota .500 Golden State L.A. Clippers L.A. Lakers Sacramento Phoenix .800 .615 . 5 6

Western Conference

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Wednesday's games

Orlando 111, Philadelphia 106

Boston 111, Chicago 82

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Miami 120, Brooklyn 110

Miami 120, Brooklyn 110

Minnesota 107, New Orleans 100

Oklahoma City 128, New York 103

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LA Lakers 126, Portland 117

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Atlanta at Denver
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers
Friday's games
Brooklyn at Washington
Miami at Indiana

Miami at Indiana Toronto at Boston Utah at Philadelphia New York at New Orleans Portland at Minnesota Sacramento at Memphis Chicago at Milwaukee LA. Clippers at Brooklyn Atlanta at Indiana Sacramento at Houston Philadelphia at Charlotte Utah at Boston Sacramento at Houston Utah at Boston
Sacramento at Houston
Toronto at Chicago
Golden State at Dallas
Oklahoma City at Phoen
Sunday's game
Memphis at Minnesota
New York at Orlando
L.A. Lakers at Miami

Portland at Washington Golden State at San Antonio

## **Logano aims to** spoil season for NASCAR's Big 3

By Jenna Fryer

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. - Joey Logano is the outlier in this year's championship race. He was never in the mix for this year's Cup title. not until he used his bumper to move reigning champion Martin Truex Jr. out of his way to forcefully snag a spot in NASCAR's version of the final four.

The move aggravated Truex, who vowed not to allow Logano to win the title . "He may have won the battle." Truex fumed, "but he ain't winning the damn war.'

A week later, Aric Almirola made a similar promise because he was rankled Logano refused to cut him any slack on the track.

Time and again, Logano finds himself in the center of a highprofile spat.

A decade of dealing with these silly little slights, being pushed around on and off the track, has taught Logano how to tune it out. He goes into Sunday's winner-take-all season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway convinced he's finally going to win his first Cup title.

Logano will race Truex, Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch for the championship.

"I said 15 weeks ago we were an underdog and I would be surprised if we made it to the final four," Logano said. "Now I feel like we are the favorites to win this thing. It's crazy how things change.

He feels as if he's the favorite. but Logano is clearly the underdog of this group. His No. 22 Team Penske group was mediocre most of the season and an afterthought to the so-called Big Three of Busch, Harvick and Truex, a trio of former series champions who dominated the regular season.

But Logano mastered a path through the playoffs and could pull off the upset of his career.

It would be vindication for the driver tagged as NASCAR's next superstar by Hall of Famer Mark Martin when Logano was just a teen waiting to turn 18 and be eligible to race at NASCAR's national level. He was nicknamed "Sliced Bread," because he was allegedly "the best thing since," and the expectations were enormous by the time he made his

Logano is by nature happy-golucky, and when he made it to the big leagues, his parents traveled the circuit with him. That became a hone of contention among Logano's peers, who resented his clean path into NASCAR and found him an easy target for scuffles on and

The one thing you've got to appreciate out of Joev is that [when] he races, he gives 100 percent.

> **Todd Gordon** Joey Logano's crew chief

Then he was pushed into the Cup Series way ahead of schedule because Joe Gibbs Racing, the team that groomed him, had an unexpected opening. It made Logano a target for everyone from Tony Stewart, Kevin Harvick, Denny Hamlin, Matt Kenseth and other high-profile drivers.

Drama after drama would have broken some, but Logano has rebounded every time.

When Gibbs could no longer wait for him to produce, he landed with Team Penske and has won 18 races since moving teams. He's qualified for NASCAR's championship round in three of the last five seasons, and was the favorite to win the title in 2015 but a feud with Matt Kenseth led to Kenseth wrecking Logano out of an automatic berth into the finale.

He was in a spectacular crash racing Carl Edwards for the victory the next year, and a penalty kept the No. 22 team out of the playoffs last season. Logano was the first driver locked into the finale this year, despite just one regular-season victory and not showing his Ford could keep up with the Big Three.

He earned his berth win a victory at Martinsville Speedway, where he moved Truex out of his way in the final turn to grab the ticket to Homestead. Truex was furious with the move, but Logano was adamant he had to take that opportunity.

Logano was booed as he took the checkered flag.

"I love his passion. The one thing you've got to appreciate out of Joey is that [when] he races, he gives 100 percent," said Logano crew chief Todd Gordon. "He's racing all the time, and that's a great attribute of his. He's up on it. You never have to question where we are, if it's through practice or through any session, you're getting 100 percent out of him.

Logano backed up his right to be aggressive with Truex and Almirola in last weekend's penultimate playoff race at Phoenix. A flat tire caused him to crash out



Tennessee Titans running back Derrick Henry, center, runs for a 1-yard touchdown during Sunday's game against the New England Patriots in Nashville, Tenn. The Titans won 34-10.

# **Titans' production up** as comfort level rises

By Teresa M. Walker Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. arcus Mariota and the Tennessee Titans finally are starting to show signs that some of their growing pains of learning a new offense may be easing

The quarterback had to learn his third new scheme going into his fourth NFL season. The Titans are leaning on a lot of young receivers and coordinator Matt LaFleur's experience calling plays grows with each game. The changes, along with the loss of three-time Pro Bowl tight end Delanie Walker in the opener, led to some early struggles on offense

Now Mariota is feeling comfortable enough with the offense and LaFleur to speak up when the game plan features something he doesn't like.

"I just feel as though I've gotten a better understanding of the offense, why we're calling certain things," Mariota said Wednesday. "Maybe why he wants a particular play against certain coverage, so having that understanding I think has allowed me to have confidence in going in and saying, 'Hey, maybe I don't really like that. I'm not feeling that.

Mariota said previously he might not have known how a play would look or work on the field.

"Having confidence in it, being in the offense a little longer has definitely helped that," Mariota said. The results might not show up in NFL rankings with the Titans (5-4) 30th in total offense and 18th in points per game, averaging 18.7.

The offensive turnaround started Oct. 21 in London in a 20-19 loss to the Chargers and includes a 28-14 win in Dallas and last weekend's 34-10 rout of the Patriots. In those three games, the Titans have converted 61 percent (25-for-41) of their third downs, which is best in the NFL in that span.

Mariota has posted his best passer ratings of the season in each of the past two games, and he has 542 total yards passing, running and catching with five touchdowns. His lone interception in the threegame stretch came in the second quarter against the Chargers

Corey Davis finished with seven catches for 125 yards against Dallas, his second 100-yard receiving game this season. Tight end Jonnu Smith had



Tennessee quarterback Marcus Mariota has completed 69.9 percent of his passes in the last two game with 468 yards, four TD passes, no interceptions and a 122.2 passer rating.

a career-high 45 yards receiving on three catches with a TD. Even rookie Cameron Batson, who spent three weeks on the practice squad earlier this season, has had four catches for 47 yards over the past two games.

Running back Dion Lewis believes everyone has gotten comfortable with each other. "It's a lot of bumps in the road when you're learn-

ing," Lewis said. "You make a mistake, and you try not to make the same mistake again. I think that's what everybody's trying to do knowing what the coaches expect from them. And if they messed up something in the past, just move on forward and not make that same mistake. I think if guys do that, we can keep building on that as an offense and keep getting better."

## **Record:** QB Mahomes answering all questions

his

"We're sorry to hear about what took place," Reid said. "Prayers and blessings are with the family. I talked to Patrick and they're doing well for the circumstances that took place. As they go through this mourning period our thoughts and prayers are with

This season has already been a whirlwind for Mahomes who was thrust into the starting job after the trade of Alex Smith to Washington and whose ability was justifiably questioned.

He was a product of the Texas Tech offensive system. His big arm was tempered by problems with his accuracy. He had leadership abilities, but could they translate from college to the

Mahomes has answered all those questions every week.

He threw six touchdown passes in a game. He led the Chiefs to tough road wins over the Chargers and Steelers, and went toeto-toe with Tom Brady in New England. He has thrown so few interceptions that any questions about his decision-making have been left in September. With two more TD passes

against the Cardinals, he broke the franchise single-season record of 30 that Hall of Fame quarterback Len Dawson set during the 1964 season - with six games to go. "Pat is just a competitor," Chiefs

running back Kareem Hunt said, "and a great guy and he's always trying to win. We needed all 31 of those touchdowns and he got

Well, the Chiefs probably didn't need all of them.

The Chiefs have scored 353 points through their first 10 games, the most in club history, and have been held to fewer than 30 only twice. Three times they've scored more than 40, including their 43-40 loss to the Patriots that remains the only blemish on their record

To put into perspective just how good Mahomes has been this season, consider this: He threw for 249 yards against the Cardinals for a passer rating of 125.4, the eighth time this season he's been over 100.0 - the third most in a single season in franchise history

Yet some people considered the end of

streak of eight consecutive 300yard passing games to be relative disappointment, as if he failed to live up to some

otherworldly



expectation. His teammates certainly weren't in that camp.

"That's something I'd do on 'Madden," wide receiver Tyreek Hill said of Mahomes' TD record. 'For him to come in and do that, that's amazing. A lot of people doubted him, saying he wasn't going to do this or wasn't going to do that. He's shutting a lot of people up right now and I'm proud of him. He's just got to continue to move forward and stay humble. He'll be all right.'

He's been far better than that this season.

Oddsmakers in Las Vegas have made the 23-year-old Mahomes the front-runner to win the league's MVP award, ahead of Saints quarterback Drew Brees and Rams running back Todd Gurley. And if he keeps going at his current rate, he will no doubt continue to rewrite the Chiefs record book.

Maybe even the page that lists the Chiefs' rather unimpressive postseason history.

"Listen, he's had a heck of a year," Reid said. "Comes out every day bringing energy and he makes sure that he has his things in order. When he does that, and he's got a lot on his plate as far as responsibility goes to run that offense, and he takes care of that. He's in a position where he can make everyone better around him, and he's doing that. I'm proud of him.

#### By the numbers

Points scored by the Chiefs through their first 10 games, the most in club history. They've scored more than 40 three times.

TDs thrown by Mahomes, a new

franchise single-

season record Len Dawson threw 30 in 1964 - with six games to go.

of 300-yard passing games, which ended Sunday when he threw for 249 yards in a 26-14 win over Arizona.

Mahomes' streak

SOLIRCE: Associated Press

## Runaway Colts: 3-straight wins builds hope

By MICHAEL MAROT Associated Press

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INDIANAPOLIS - The Indianapolis Colts' season looked lost in early October.

At 1-5, they were better positioned for the draft than the playoffs. A defense that showed so much promise in the first three weeks gave up 37 or more points over the next three. Andrew Luck's short, quick throws created debate over whether his surgically repaired right shoulder was or ever would be — back to full strength.

Three straight wins have changed a lot.

Suddenly, the Colts trail division leader Houston by just two games, have slowly moved back into the wild-card chase, and face only one more team with more than five wins at home against Houston (6-3) on Dec. 9. With momentum and hope restored in Indy, there's no telling how this might end.

"That's not a good question to ask a perfectionist," coach Frank Reich said Monday when asked if the offense could play more efficiently.

"It's never good enough. But it's been pretty good. It's funny how we're wired in this business. This business can humble you in a second and the moment we think we can throw it out there and score 30 points in a minute is the time we get embarrassed.'

Reich's comments explain why he refused to panic when many things — including his decision to go for the win in an overtime loss to Houston - seemed to backfire

It's also the reason he views Sunday's 29-26 victory over Jacksonville with mixed feelings.

He was thrilled to see Luck

By the numbers

The Colts' record after starting the season 1-5.

**19.67** 

The average amount of points the team has allowed during its threegame winning streak.

out the first half as Indy scored on four of its first six possessions and was excited to look at a stat sheet that showed the Colts' defense limited the Jaguars' usually strong ground game to just 91 yards and 2.7 yards per carry.

Still, he understands Indv (4-5) must continue improving to continue winning.

The offense only produced two first downs in the second half, preventing the Colts from sealing the victory until finally forcing a fumble after Jacksonville had moved into position for a potentially tying field goal with 90 seconds left in the game. They only got the ball back after a booth review barely beat Jacksonville's next snap and the replay review overturned the call on the field.

"It's sort of like a mixed bag of emotions," Luck said after joining Tom Brady and Peyton Manning as the only players with six



Indianapolis Colts tight end Mo Alie-Cox (81) celebrates a touchdown against the Jacksonville Jaguars during the first half of Sunday's win. After a 1-5 start, the Colts are 4-5 and back in the playoff hunt.

consecutive games of three or more touchdowns in one season. "A win, excited, but also a little bit angry on the mistakes I know that I felt like I made and that our offense made.

There are plenty of encouraging signs

Luck has thrown 21 touchdowns and six interceptions in the past six games with a reduced workload on his shoulder. He's increasingly exploited the mismatches between Indy's versatile tight ends, hooking up with them on five TD passes over the past two weeks.

Perhaps most important: Indy's

Luck upright. He's been sacked 10 times in nine starts after going down 156 times in his first 70 games, and Luck's streak of four straight games and 184 consecutive sacks are the longest of his pro career.

They've played well enough that Reich is expanding the play

"It gives us a lot of confidence to call anything we want, to call stuff down the field," he said. "There's not a play that gets called that we don't think protection first.' Defensively, things look better.

The Colts generally have creat-

to even hit Blake Bortles on his 38 attempts Sunday, and they've proved stouter against the run than in previous seasons

If they keep it up, Reich knows anything is possible. Another home win next Sunday against Tennessee would give the Colts a four-game winning streak, a share of second place in the AFC South and perhaps even better odds in the playoff race.

"It's not easy, obviously, to win three in a row, especially coming off of a bye," Reich said. "But we really want to make a statement in these games we have at home. We want to get the excitement

## Redskins look for more support from home fans



By Stephen Whyno Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. - Home sweet home? Not so much for Redskins players right

Even though Washington has won three of five home games this season and leads the NFC East, cornerback Josh Norman called out Redskins fans in the aftermath of an ugly victory at Tampa Bay and said he felt they played better on the road. In the process, he put the spotlight on the atmosphere Sunday at FedEx Field when the AFC South-leading Houston Texans come

Norman said home games are "like the other team's turf" because of an infusion of opposing fans and opined that Redskins fans "just boo everything and aren't really behind us." Teammates hope that sentiment works to provide a spark of energy for the rest of the year.

We have a really good team and what it comes down to is myself and Josh, we want to be backed up, and we don't want it to feel like it's 50/50 when we're at our home field and they have as many fans as we do," running back Chris Thompson said. "We just

want everybody to be there. That's it. We want our fans to be out there and just have our backs.

The Redskins organization began a concerted effort in the offseason to try to improve the fan experience at the stadium in suburban Maryland. Aware a sellout streak the team boasted had lasted the past 50 seasons would end, the decision was made to stop selling as many tickets to brokers and try to draw back in some of the disillusioned fans of a franchise that has just three playoff victories since its last Super Bowl title from the 1991 season.

Washington's average attendance of 61,201 ranks 26th in the NFL, and its 74.6 percent-of-capacity crowd ranks dead last. Chief marketing officer Steve Ziff said prior to the season there's no timeline for when he expects fans to return in droves like the glory days at RFK Stadium.

"We're going to do things right for as long as it takes," Ziff said. "Every day the goal is to do things right and hopefully over time, win or lose, fans will buy into that."

Right now, the Redskins are winning. At they're two games up in the division and on pace for their first postseason appearance since 2015.

Washington Redskins head coach Jay Gruden, right, talks to wide receiver Josh Doctson and running back Adrian Peterson during the second half of Sunday's game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The Redskins' average attendance at FedEx Field ranks 26th in the NFL.







#### Dallas Cowboys (4-5)

at Atlanta Falcons (4-5) AFN-Sports2

7 p.m. Sunday CET 3 a.m. Monday JKT Series: Cowbovs lead 14-11.

Last meeting: Falcons beat Cowboys 27-7, Oct. 12, 2017.

Notes: Falcons have won past three meetings. ... Cowboys coach Jason Garrett is 0-3 against the Falcons. ... Cowboys RB Ezekiel Elliott rushed for 151 yards last week. ... Falcons QB Matt Rvan passed for 330 yards and two touchdowns last week. ... Falcons WR Julio Jones caught seven passes for 107 yards last week.





#### Denver Broncos (3-6) at Los Angeles Chargers (7-2)

AFN-Sports 10 p.m. Sunday CET 6 a.m. Monday JKT Series: Broncos lead 64-51-1.

Last meeting: Chargers beat Broncos 21-0, Oct. 22, 2017.

Notes: Broncos have won two of past three meetings. ... Broncos QB Case Keenum passed for 290 yards and a TD in Week 9. Chargers RB Melvin Gordon had 165 scrimmage vards (92 rushing, 72 receiving) and a TD catch last week. ... Chargers LB Melvin Ingram had a sack and forced fumble last week.

#### Marquee matchup

#### Houston Texans (6-3) at Washington Redskins (6-3)

#### AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. Sunday CET; 3 a.m. Monday JKT

SERIES RECORD: Series tied 2-2. LAST MEETING: Texans beat Redskins 17-6, Sept. 7,

LAST WEEK: Texans had bye; Redskins beat Buccaneers

TEXANS OFFENSE: OVERALL (14), RUSH (11), PASS

TEXANS DEFENSE: OVERALL (9), RUSH (6), PASS REDSKINS OFFENSE: OVERALL (26), RUSH (10), PASS

REDSKINS DEFENSE: OVERALL (17), RUSH (5), PASS

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: Texans have won past two meetings. Redskins last beat Texans in 2006. ... AFC South-leading Houston has won six in row since 0-3 start.

Texans quarterback

Eric Christian Smith/AP

Deshaun Watson

.. QB Deshaun Watson's 36 touchdown passes are second most in NFL history in first 16 games after Kurt Warner's 39. ... Watson has back-to-back 200-yard passing games but has not thrown for 300-plus since Week 5. ... Only five teams have allowed more sacks than Texans' 30. ... RB Lamar Miller has 100-plus yards rushing and TD in two of past three games. ... WR DeAndre Hopkins coming off 10 catches for 105 yards and TD in Week 9. ... Hopkins' four games with 10-plus catches, 100-plus yards and TD are most in league since start of 2017. ... Hopkins has five TD catches over past four games. ... WR Demaryius Thomas had three catches for 61 yards in Texans debut vs. Broncos after trade from Denver. ... DE J.J. Watt has nine sacks in past seven games. ... DE Jadeveon Clowney has three sacks in past three games, ... S Justin Reid had career-high nine tackles vs. Broncos. ... Redskins lead NFC East by

> Alex Smith had 100.5 rating and TD pass last week at Tampa Bay. ... RB Adrian Peterson has 251 yards rushing and TD in three career meetings. ... WR Josh Doctson has TD catches in back-toback games, ... Jordan Reed is one of four tight ends with 200-plus catches and 20-plus receiving TDs since 2015. ... Redskins' defense has forced turnover in 13 consecutive games, longest active streak in NFL.

two games over Eagles and Cowboys. ... QB









Philadelphia Eagles (4-5) at New Orleans Saints (8-1) AFN-Sports2

10:25 p.m. Sunday CET 6:25 a.m. Monday JKT Series: Eagles lead 16-11.

Last meeting: Eagles beat Saints 39-17. Oct. 11. 2015.

Notes: Saints have won two of past three meetings. ... This is the first time Eagles coach Doug Pederson has faced the Saints. .. Eagles QB Carson Wentz passed for 360 yards last week. ... Saints have scored at least 40 points in five games this season. ... Saints WR Michael Thomas had eight catches for 70 yards last week.





#### Minnesota Vikings (5-3-1) at Chicago Bears (6-3) AFN-Sports

2:20 a.m. Monday CET 10:20 a.m. Monday JKT Series: Vikings lead 60-51-2.

Last meeting: Vikings beat Bears

23-10, Dec. 31, 2017.

Notes: Vikings have won past three meetings. ... Vikings coach Mike Zimmer is 6-2 against Bears.

... Vikings RB Latavius Murray rushed for 111 yards and two TDs in last meeting. ... Bears QB Mitch Trubisky passed for a career-high 355 yards and three TDs last week

#### REST OF THE SCHEDULE

for 148.6 rating.

Pittsburgh at Jacksonville
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Giants
Cinclinati at Batilimore
Cinclinati at Batilimore
Tennessee at Indianapolis
Oakland at Arizona
Open: Buffalo, San Francisco, Miami,
New England, Cleveland, N.Y. Jets
Monday's game
Kansas City at L.A. Rams

#### **NEXT WEEK**

Thursday, Nov. 22 Chicago at Detroit Washington at Dallas Atlanta at New Orleans Sunday, Nov. 25 Sunday, Nov. 25 Seattle at Carolina New England at N.Y. Jets Jacksonville at Buffalo San Francisco at Tampa Bay San Francisco at Tampa B Oakland at Baltimore N.Y. Giants at Philadelphi Cleveland at Cincinnati Arizona at L.A. Chargers Pittsburgh at Denver Miami at Indianapolis Green Bay at Minnesota Open: L.A. Rams, Kansas City Monday, Nov. 26 Tennessee at Houston



#### East PF PA PF PA 280 236 ΔFC NEC 0 0 NEC AFC 0 0 0 1 5 5 7 .667 .444 .444 New England Washington 176 175 0-1-0 1-2-0 2-1-0 .700 2-3-0 1-4-0 2-4-0 2-1-0 3-2-0 6-2-0 5-0-0 3-1-0 4-3-0 2-5-0 2-5-0 5 Miami .500 .300 199 137 256 251 4-1-0 1-2-0 1-2-0 2-1-0 1-1-0 Dallas Philadelphia 181 3-1-0 3-3-0 2-4-0 Buffalo N.Y. Jets ō 208 254 South 216 184 2-3-0 1-4-0 1-2-0 N.Y. Giants 0-4-0 1-6-0 1-1-0 South 330 232 Houston 3 0 3-1-0 3-2-0 1-1-0 New Orleans 3-1-0 3-1-0 2-3-0 2-2-0 2-3-0 2-3-0 1-3-0 3-4-0 2-0-0 2-0-0 3-4-0 1-1-0 1-1-0 2-4-0 1-2-0 0-3-0 Carolina 5-0-0 3-2-0 2-2-0 1-3-0 1-3-0 1-4-0 4-2-0 2-1-0 4-2-0 0-3-0 2-4-0 1-2-0 Tennessee 5 4 3 4 5 6 0 556 168 151 6 4 3 3 5 6 0 667 241 232 1-1-0 Indianapolis Jacksonville .444 260 239 160 199 North Atlanta Tampa Bay .444 Pittsburgh 2 4 5 6 279 235 3-2-0 3-2-0 3-0-1 2-2-0 2-3-0 0-4-0 3-0-0 2-2-0 .667 4-1-0 3-2-0 4-1-0 4-2-1 1 209 288 3-2-1 3-2-0 3-1-1 Chicago 269 221 175 204 2-2-0 2-2-0 Cincinnati Minnesota 223 216 202 244 West 335 231 Baltimore Cleveland 0 .444 213 218 We 160 2-2-0 3-2-1 4-3-0 2-4-1 0-2-0 1-2-0 Green Bay Detroit 4 1 .500 4-0-1 2-2-0 0-4-0 2-3-1 1-5-0 2-1-0 2-1-0 263 est Kansas City 9 .900 353 240 7-1-0 2-0-0 L.A. Rams 0 .900 6-1-0 3-0-0 1 2 6 8 0 0 0 4-1-0 3-1-0 2-3-0 1-4-0 5-1-0 2-1-0 1-5-0 2-1-0 1-5-0 0-3-0 192 225 266 1-2-0 0-2-0 1-2-0 L.A. Chargers 240 186 213 4-1-0 1-3-0 Seattle 5 7 0 .444 219 1-2-0 3-3-0 3-3-0 2-5-0 Oakland

# **SPORTS**



#### In the process

Butler, Sixers have time to get on the same page » NBA, Page 60

# He's on fire

Chiefs' Mahomes keeps rewriting record books

> By DAVE SKRETTA Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. atrick Mahomes walked off the field at Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday with another record on his résumé and the Kansas City Chiefs another win toward earning the No. 1 seed in the AFC playoffs.

He didn't have much chance to savor any of it. Mahomes quickly learned that the stepfather of his longtime girlfriend, Brittany Matthews, had died after a medical emergency during the game. Mahomes quickly skipped out

on the postgame celebration and joined Matthews, who posted the sobering news on her social something media accounts that evening.

"Today is a day I will never forget," she wrote in the caption "Madden." of a photo. "Directly after this Tyreek Hill picture I sprinted to the front Chiefs' running back, entrance to see my stepdad on QB Pat Mahomes' passed out! He did not come 31 passing touchdowns back from this and he was called to heaven today! I KNOW 100% he is so

happy up there with his kids looking down on us, cheering loud that his Chiefs won today!"

Mahomes is not expected to miss any preparation for Monday night's showdown with the Rams in Los Angeles, though Chiefs coach Andy Reid said he would be fine if it

The Chiefs were off Tuesday and Wednesday, giving Mahomes and his family time to cope.

SEE RECORD ON PAGE 61

'That's

l'd do on

through 10 games

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mah<mark>ome</mark>s runs onto the field before Sunday's game against the Cardinals in Kansas City, Mo. Mahomes threw two TD passes in the Chiefs' 26-14 win over the Cardinals, breaking the franchise single-season record of 30 — with six games to go — that Hall of Famer Len Dawson set during the 1964 season.

